Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-93-134 *15 July 1993*

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Heads of State, Other Participants Arrive at Summit

OAS Secretary General

PY1407131093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1528 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Report by Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Salvador de Bahia, 13 Jul (EFE)—Brazilian Joao Baena Soares, secretary general of the OAS said today that the idea of growth for distribution of wealth later "belongs to the past," noting that wealth should be distributed as it is produced.

Upon arriving in his country in response to an invitation to attend the Third Ibero-American Summit, Baena Soares made several comments on economic policy and explained that the creation of wealth for distribution to society "has not worked anywhere in the world." He added that "the path toward development lies in the simultaneous production and distribution of state goods. "He warned that "people must become aware that they cannot expect everything from the government."

He said the summit has "a great scope, especially for defining common policies for resolving countries' socio-economic problems." "It is hoped that Ibero-American countries will design some common guidelines for action in order to find the path toward development that all nations want," he emphasized.

He warned that "it should be noted that nations have many expectations on these events, which can produce much frustration."

During part of his remarks to the press upon arriving in Salvador, Baena Soares referred to the Brazilian situation, noting that foreigners have more confidence in Brazil's future than Brazilians themselves.

Brazilian inflation now stands at 32 percent monthly, and the currency is weakening daily. It now stands at 64,000 cruceiros to the U.S. dollar.

Baena tried to counter the pessimism of his fellow countrymen by emphasizing that the Brazilian image abroad is good because democracy has been strengthened. "The process of replacement of the president was seen abroad as a consolidation of democracy with respect to the institutions, as proof of respect for the Constitution, and a demonstration of political and social maturity," Baena said. However, he said that for foreign observers "it is much more difficult to understand the Brazilian economic process." "It is a paradox that the country should grow despite its negative indexes," he said, adding that "it is imposible to maintain a growing foreign trade trend and increased grain production without a previous rational structural adjustment."

He said he was "optimistic that Brazil will finally achieve its development, for its own good and for setting a course for the continent."

Spanish King, Entourage

PY1507013193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2344 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, Brazil, 14 Jul (EFE)—Spanish King Juan Carlos I arrived at the airport of Salvador, Bahia State, at 2326 GMT tonight to attend the Third Ibero-American Summit, which will begin tomorrow.

King Juan Carlos was accompanied by Queen Sofia and Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana, who will attend a meeting of Ibero-American foreign ministers tomorrow before the beginning of the summit's work.

The Spanish king plans to have dinner in private tonight. Before the summit begins tomorrow, he will hold bilateral meetings with Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro, Portuguese President Mario Soares, and Brazilian Cardinal Lucas Moreira Neves. Then he will receive representatives of the Spanish community living in Bahia State.

Shortly before the king's arrival, the Spanish Air Force plane carrying Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez from Madrid arrived at Salvador airport.

Spanish Prime Minister

PY1507012393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2322 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, Brazil, 14 Jul (EFE)—Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez arrived in Salvador, Bahia State, at 2315 GMT tonight to attend the Third Ibero-American Summit.

From the airport, Gonzalez went to the hotel where he will stay during the visit and where he will have dinner with Spanish King Juan Carlos I tonight.

Gonzalez, who is accompanied by his wife, Carmen Romero, will hold bilateral meetings with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Colombian President Cesar Gaviria before beginning the summit work.

Portuguese President Soares

PY1407233993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2129 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 14 Jul (EFE)—Portuguese President Mario Soares arrived here today to attend the Third Ibero-American Summit of chiefs of state and government, which will open tomorrow here in Salvador, a city located in northeastern Brazil.

Soares arrived at 1815 local time (2115 GMT) on the same Chilean Air Force aircraft that brought Chilean President Patricio Aylwin from Santiago, Chile. [In a similar report Lisbon RDP Antena 1 Radio Network in Portuguese 2300 GMT 14 Jul 93 reports that upon President Soares arrival he stated "he is very concerned with the situation in Cuba, a nation he most admires. In statements to the press as he was leaving the plane that brought him from Santiago with his Chilean counterpart

Patricio Aylwin, the Portuguese head of state added that he would like to see Cuba find a solution to achieve democracy as well as the release of all political prisoners. Mario Soares will be participating in the third Ibero-American summit in Salvador, the capital of the northeast state of Bahia."]

Argentine President Menem

PY1507000193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2311 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 14 Jul (EFE) —Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem arrived tonight in Salvador, Bahia State, to attend the Third Ibero-American summit of chiefs of state and government, which will open on 15 July.

Menem arrived aboard the new Argentine presidential plane, named Tango 01, at 2005 local time (2305 GMT).

Menem and his entourage went straight from the airport to the hotel where they will be staying.

Peruvian President Fujimori

PY1507001093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2216 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Salvador (Brazil), 14 Jul (EFE)—Commenting on the recent murder in the Peruvian Andean region of women and children by Shining Path members who used machetes to kill their victims, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori stated here today that he could personally shoot Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman.

Upon his arrival in Salvador to attend the Third Ibero-American Summit, Fujimori said: "Had I been there with a gun, I would have simply sent him to hell."

Fujimori noted, however, that he will not violate any laws or rules. Thus, he said, during visits to prisons for terrorists "I used to go unarmed" because anything could happen in those places. [passage omitted]

Colombian President Gaviria

PY1507013593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2330 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, Brazil, 14 Jul (EFE)—Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo arrived in Salvador, Bahia State, tonight to attend the Third Ibero-American Summit, which will begin tomorrow.

Gaviria arrived on the Colombian Air Force presidential plane number 0001 at 2328 GMT.

The Colombian president and his entourage immediately left for the hotel where they will stay until 17 July.

Paraguayan President Rodriguez

PY1507020293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0037 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 14 Jul (EFE)—Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez arrived here today to attend the Third Ibero-American Summit of chiefs of state and government.

The Paraguayan president arrived at 2130 local time (0030 GMT 15 July). Thus, the last president to arrive for the summit will be Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Chilean President Aylwin

PY1407223293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2115 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 14 Jul (EFE)—Chilean President Patricio Aylwin arrived here today to attend the Third Ibero-American Summit of chiefs of state and government.

Aylwin arrived on board a Chilean Air Force aircraft, which landed at the local airport at 1815 local time; that is, 2115 GMT.

Uruguayan President Lacalle

PY1407223593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2126 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 14 Jul (EFE)—Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle arrived here today to attend the Third Ibero-American Summit of chiefs of state and government, which will open tomorrow here in Salvador, a city located in northeastern Brazil.

Lacalle arrived on a commercial jetliner from Rio de Janeiro, where he spent the past two days and where he celebrated his 52d birthday yesterday in the company of his wife, Maria Julia Pou, and his three children.

Lacalle was met at the airport by the host country president, Itamar Franco, and by members of the Uruguayan delegation led by Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu, who has participated in preparatory meetings for the summit.

Bolivian President Paz Zamora

PY1407210793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2008 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 14 Jul (EFE)—Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora arrived here today to attend the Third Ibero-American Summit of chiefs of state and government.

Paz Zamora, who will end his term in August, will stay in this city for only 24 hours.

Nicaraguan President Chamorro

PY1407183793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1714 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 14 Jul (EFE)—Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro arrived today, 14 July, in Salvador, Bahia (Brazil), to participate in the Third Ibero-American Summit of chiefs of state and government.

Upon her arrival in Salvador the Nicaraguan president referred to Cuba by saying: "I hope this summit will serve to prevent the island from suffering further and so that (President) Fidel Castro will be a democrat like everyone else."

"Should I meet him at the hotel I will ask him to do a good thing for his country and to be a democrat," she said.

The Third Ibero-American Summit will begin tomorrow, 15 July, at 1500, at a plenary session when Brazilian President Itamar Franco will speak first, followed by King Juan Carlos of Spain, and then by Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

Ecuadoran President Duran-Ballen

PY1407180893 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1652 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Salvador (Brazil), 14 Jul (EFE)—Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen today celebrated his 72d birthday by touring Salvador, Bahia, on the coast of this northeastern state of Brazil.

Duran-Ballen, who is recovering from back surgery, was accompanied by his wife Josefina and government officials, during his walk along the seacoast and through historical sections of this city, which was Brazil's capital during colonial times; the city was founded 444 years ago. [passage omitted]

Duran-Ballen was the first president to arrive in this northeastern Brazilian city, host to the Third Ibero-American Summit which begins tomorrow.

The Ecuadoran president arrived on Tuesday night in the midst of heavy rains which interrupted his arrival ceremony. [passage omitted]

In addition to participating in the summit, the Ecuadoran president intends to hold bilateral meetings in Salvador, Bahia, with his colleague from Peru, Alberto Fujimori; from Argentina, Carlos Menem; from Chile, Patricio Aylwin; from Costa Rica, Rafael Angel Calderon; and from Colombia, Cesar Gaviria.

Guatemalan President Carpio

PY1407172793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1545 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Bahia, 14 Jul (EFE)—Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio arrived in Salvador, Bahia, this morning to participate in the Third Ibero-American Summit. The Guatemalan president has one of the busiest agendas of bilateral meetings.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Arturo Fajardo told EFE that Ramiro de Leon will meet this afternoon with his Colombian counterpart Cesar Gaviria and Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem.

Other official Guatemalan sources asserted that meetings have also been arranged with Spanish King Juan Carlos, Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran, Brazilian President Itamar Franco, Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez, Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle, and Chilean President Patricio Aylwin.

Fajardo stated that for the new Guatemalan Government the presence at this "summit" is very important due to the political contacts they will maintain and the opportunity it gives them to thank the international community for its support during the recent crisis and endured by this Central American nation.

Ramiro de Leon, by national consensus, was elected president in Congress on 6 June after the failure of the self-inflicted coup on 25 May by then President Jorge Serrano Elias, who lives in exile in Panama.

Dominican Vice President

PY1407144693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1241 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador de Bahia, 14 Jul (EFE)—Dominican Vice President Carlos Morales Troncoso arrived today at dawn in Salvador de Bahia to attend the Third Ibero-American Summit of chiefs of state and government.

Morales Troncoso will participate in the summit representing President Joaquin Balaguer, 86, who for the first time in his life will be absent from this kind of summit because of his advanced age.

The Dominican vice president will give a speech during the plenary meeting on 15 July about the advantages of economic integration within the framework of the summit's slogan: "An Agenda for Development."

The summit will be attended by 17 Latin American presidents and the chiefs of state and government of Spain and Portugal.

Panamanian President Endara

PY1407194993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1846 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 14 Jul (EFE)—Panamanian President Guillermo Endara arrived today in Salvador to participate in the Third Ibero-American Summit of chiefs of state and government.

The Panamanian president was accompanied by his wife, Ana Mae Diaz, and Foreign Minister Julio Linares.

Sources in the Panamanian delegation have told EFE that Endara was going to his hotel to rest and that in principle he has no bilateral contacts scheduled.

Cuba's Castro Arrives

FL1507004893 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, arrived at the "2 July" Airport of the Brazilian city of Salvador, Bahia, at 2006 hours today [0006 GMT, 15 July] to participate in the Third Ibero-American Summit that will bring together, on 15 and 16 July, the chiefs of state of the Latin American nations, Spain, and Portugal.

Cuban ANPP President Alarcon

FL1507022793 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0132 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro arrived in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, on the evening of 14 July, to participate in the Third Ibero-American Summit of heads of state and government, which will begin tomorrow in this northeastern city of Brazil. Upon his arrival at the (2 July) Airport [word indistinct], Fidel was received by several officials and [words indistinct] of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, as well as by Colonel (Antonio Carropierredo), an officer at the air base in Salvador, and Cuban Ambassador to Brazil Jorge Bolanos.

Since 1800 GMT, a multitude of Bahianos have been waiting for the arrival of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro in the area of the (Cotton Palace) Hotel, where the Cuban delegation will be lodged. Roberto Robaina is already there and will be joining the welcoming. Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, and other government and state officials accompany Fidel as part of the delegation.

Officials To Assess Inclusion of Cuban Issue in Declaration

PY1407221393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1915 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 14 July (EFE)—Spanish delegation sources reported today that foreign ministers attending the Third Ibero-American Summit will discuss the inclusion of a point dealing with the U.S.' embargo on trade with Cuba in the summit's final declaration.

It was the Cuban delegation that proposed the inclusion of the aforementioned point, in which the word "embargo" is not mentioned. Its approval by the foreign ministers hinges on its final draft, although it also will have to be discussed by the heads of government and state attending the summit meeting.

Until the end of the technical meeting held by summit delegates this morning, the proposal under consideration pertains to the inclusion of a point in the final declaration stating that participants disapprove of one country applying economic sanctions against another one, without mentioning any country in particular.

Inocencio Arias, Spanish secretary of state for international cooperation and Ibero-America, warned that this idea is only on the drawing board and told the journalists who asked him about the issue that "Cuba is not blockaded but rather has been placed under an embargo by the most powerful country in the world."

Arias stated that "if it had been blockaded, Spanish tourists would not have been able to travel to Cuba, there would not have been Spanish private investments there, and it would have been impossible for us to send humanitarian aid and foodstuffs to the island as we are currently doing."

The document to be submitted to foreign ministers attending the summit meeting includes an endorsement of all the principles established at the Madrid summit last year, considered from a political agreement-oriented viewpoint.

It further states that the Ibero-American community constitutes a distinct political structure and a forum for discussion capable of making decisions on behalf of 21 countries on specific issues, international law, and the candidacy of Ibero-Americans for international organizations—as was the case when it condemned the coup attempt in Venezuela.

The Ibero-American community is thus instrumental in making its member countries—sovereign Spanish- or Portuguese-speaking states of the Americas and Europe—make joint decisions on matters of common interest at international conferences.

The draft document also includes briefs on the meetings held under the aegis of the Ibero-American Summit by education, culture, health, and science and technology ministers and officials to discuss ways of promoting development and implementing the programs approved at the Madrid summit.

The aforementioned sources elaborated on the content of the document under study, including the summit's key subject—"A Program for Development," which will be discussed together with the document UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali is drafting with a view to having Ibero-American countries make joint proposals on them and establish common criteria.

OAS Official Urges Cuban Discussion

PY1407182393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1711 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador de Bahia (Brazil), 14 Jul (EFE)—OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, a Brazilian citizen, today stressed in Salvador de Bahia that it is now time for the Latin American presidents to discuss the issue of Cuba rejoining the OAS.

In Salvador de Bahia, the government of Cuban President Fidel Castro will propose to the Latin American governments that they support the idea of Cuba rejoining the OAS after three decades of exclusion that was coupled with a U.S. economic blockade on the island.

Baena Soares stressed that he does not know if the heads of state and government gathering in Salvador de Bahia will discuss this issue during the Third Ibero-American Summit, but he emphasized that any opportunity to discuss this issue is welcome.

After participating here in a meeting of Ibero-American businessmen, the diplomat told journalists: "The 1990's are different from the 1960's. Many things have changed and it is necessary to discuss this issue, regardless of the decision that will be made."

Baena Soares pointed out: "I cannot become involved in these affairs, but as secretary general, I can express my concern. I believe this issue should be discussed. I do not know if it should be discussed at this meeting, but it should be discussed."

Proposal To Lift Embargo

PY1407161093 Rio de Janeiro TVE Television in Portuguese 1530 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] OAS Secretary General Baena Soares has proposed ending Cuba's economic isolation. Today in Salvador, Baena Soares said he will submit this proposal to the Ibero-American Summit.

This morning Baena Soares attended the Ibero-American Conference of Businessmen. He made a suggestion for the Ibero-American chiefs of state and government's open agenda: to lift the embargo on Cuba.

[Begin Baena recording] So far this issue is not on the agenda of the organization, the permanent council, nor of the [word indistinct] general assembly. However, the important thing is to raise the issue regardless of the decision the countries may make, but I feel it is my duty to voice this concern [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Chamorro To Urge Castro

PY1407220093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1828 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, Brazil, 14 Jul (EFE)—Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro said today that during the Third Ibero-American Summit she will ask her Cuban counterpart, Fidel Castro, "to be democratic" and end the "suffering" of the Cuban people.

The only Ibero-American female president said the following to journalists at her hotel in Salvador, where Castro also will stay: "I hope this summit helps Mr. Castro and puts an end to the island's suffering. I hope it helps him become as democratic as all the other presidents attending this summit are."

Amidst a struggle between journalists and security agents—one of whom Chamorro herself had to restrain—the president was asked about what she will tell Castro if she meets him in one of the hotel corridors. Smiling she said: "This is a very touchy question."

Another journalist asked: "Will Fidel Castro attend this summit?" Chamorro answered: "Yes." When she was told that he would be arriving today, she added: "I already have met him. I traveled with him when I was in Spain for the Second Ibero-American Summit a year ago. I had the luck of sitting next to Fidel Castro."

She insisted: "If I have the opportunity to talk to him I will tell him to be democratic and think about his fatherland s well-being."

As in previous summits, Castro and the U.S. blockade of the island are becoming a parallel focus of attention. So much so that several Latin American foreign ministers have asked their Cuban counterpart, Roberto Robaina, to "soften his tone" to avoid distracting everyone's attention from the most important topics on the summit's agenda, diplomatic sources reported.

Smiling and praising the beauty of this tropical city in the Brazilian northeast, Chamorro arrived in Salvador in the company of several ministers. Salvador was founded 444 years ago on the South Atlantic coast and currently has almost 3 million inhabitants.

When she arrived at the hotel, where she was welcomed by a rhythmic and sensual Afro-Bahian song and several journalists with their questions, cameras, and microphones, the Nicaraguan president said: "It is a very beautiful city, full of joy. We are fascinated."

About the situation in Nicaragua, she said her administration is "working for peace and reconciliation and disarming the people because there is still a large amount of weapons in the country. I have just sent the National Assembly a decree granting amnesty to people who turn in their arms."

She added: "I do not want weapons in my fatherland. We must rebuild a country that has been destroyed by a Marxist-Leninist ideology that has been ousted in Nicaragua."

Cuba Needs 'Peaceful Change'

PY1407220493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1739 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador de Bahia, 14 Jul (EFE)—Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus today said Cuba needs a peaceful change toward democracy, and he also ratified the Costa Rican candidacy to head the OAS Secretariat General, which he said is an old Central American aspiration.

In statements to EFE, Niehaus said we must not miss the opportunity offered by the Ibero-American Summit that will be held this week in Salvador, Bahia, to again seek

"to avoid violence and make Cuba return to the Latin American democratic family."

Cuban President Fidel Castro is one of the chiefs of state who will participate in the Third Ibero-American Summit. Many foreign ministries are sure that several of his Latin American colleagues will again insist to him, in private, on the need to democratize his island.

Regarding the Cuban regime, Niehaus said that "totalitarianism and the disregard for democracy can no longer be admitted in Latin America," adding that "isolation is also very dangerous and it may lead to violence."

The Costa Rican foreign minister also said his candidacy to become OAS secretary general, a post that must be renewed next March, has the formal or verbal support of 25 countries. It is known that he only needs 18 votes to win.

Although he expressed his respect for other candidates, among which former Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja and former Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo are mentioned, Niehaus reminded that during the 40 years of the OAS' existence, Central America has never occupied this post, which has become a historical aspiration for the region.

Niehaus said the OAS "may and must obtain the political will of the states" not only to comply with the political role it has been assigned, but also to participate in the national efforts in the struggle against poverty and drug trafficking, and to preserve the environment and improve the standard of living in the continent.

Together with other social objectives, "the OAS will have to defend democracy, for which reason it has taken important steps in Guatemala and Haiti," he said.

The basis of this defense must be, Niehaus said, "absolute respect for international law and a joint and decided action by all."

Menem Says Cuban Democratization 'Now Possible'

PY1507024393 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0125 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By unidentified NA "special correspondent"]

[Text] Salvador, Bahia, 14 Jul (NA)—President Carlos Menem stated here tonight that "democratization is now possible in Cuba" under the leadership of Commander Fidel Castro. This statement entails a major change in the position Menem had taken a year ago in Madrid at the Second Ibero-American Summit.

Menem said that he notices "a small move" toward a more open economy in Cuba and noted his opposition to economic sanctions against Castro's government.

Menem added that the U.S.-sponsored "blockade against Cuba will be discussed" on 15-16 July during the presidential meetings at the Third Ibero-American Summit.

Menem said he would "very likely" meet Fidel Castro tomorrow, and reaffirmed that his position toward the Cuban Government is that of "insisting on democratization in Cuba."

The Argentine president said he "does not know" who proposed the meeting scheduled for tomorrow and noted that the two foreign ministers "will meet to discuss the issue."

Menem said: "A meeting is always possible. I do not know who proposed this meeting. The two foreign ministers will meet tomorrow to determine where the proposal came from."

Menem made these remarks shortly after 2030 upon arriving at the Acridiem Hotel, where he will stay until 17 July, when he will depart for Sao Paulo with his Brazilian counterpart, Itamar Franco.

Menem was cheered by a group of Argentine tourists who also are staying at the Acridiem Hotel, which is located on the ocean. His presence there created a hectic situation.

Contradicting leaks from Argentine sources, Menem denied reports that Argentina will promote a reference to corruption in the summit's final document.

"No. We will not do that. I do not know if the other participants will raise it. We will not do it. Why should Argentina do that?" Menem asked in a rather irritated tone.

Honduran President Says Cuban-U.S. Relations Not Summit Issue

PY1507000693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2033 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 14 July (EFE)—Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas stated today that the conflict between Cuba and the United States, as well as the dispute between banana-producing countries and the EC, must be tackled bilaterally rather than at the Third Ibero-American Summit.

During an interview with EFE, Callejas said the EC decision to restrict its imports of bananas from Latin America to an annual volume of 2 million metric tons is "unfair, unsubstantiated, and jars with the globalization and GATT policies adopted by the EC."

He nonetheless pointed out that Honduras, one of the leading exporters of bananas, will not bring up this subject at the Ibero- American Summit that opens tomorrow, although he conceded that he might raise the issue bilaterally with the chiefs of state and government

of Spain and Portugal, which are members of the EC and the Ibero-American community.

Callejas further stated: "The banana problem is critical. We have witnessed with great concern and sadness how our economies have been adversely affected by (the EC) decision. For us it is really unbelievable that the EC, one of the most developed regions in the world, should, for merely political reasons, decide on actions that seriously affect the interest of a considerable number of countries that have only their export capacity."

With regards to possible contacts with his European counterparts, the Honduran president said: "I already discussed that issue with the head of the Spanish Government (Felipe Gonzalez) during the Madrid summit last year. And the results, as we can all see for ourselves, have not been very positive."

Concerning Cuba, Callejas noted that despite the fact that there are no diplomatic relations between Honduras and Cuba, Honduras opposes the embargo.

Callejas is of the opinion that "all aspects pertaining to Cuba's relations with the United States are totally in the domain of bilateral relations" and should not be broached in the summit meeting at Salvador, Bahia State.

Upon being asked what he would tell Cuban President Fidel Castro if he came across him in the corridors of the Othon Bahia Hotel, where they both will be staying, Callejas told EFE: "I would simply tell him: How are you Fidel? and we would exchange a big hug. We have become acquainted and are friends."

Callejas also asserted that Honduras' main interest in the summit meeting is "an agenda for development," focusing especially on social issues.

Argentina's Di Tella Speaks on Menem-Castro Meeting, Falklands

PY1407230493 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2140 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Jul (NA)—Argentine President Carlos Menem will ask Cuban leader Fidel Castro to have the Cuban Government pay its $1 billion debt to Argentina.

That statement was made today by Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella in a telephone conversation with NA from New York.

Di Tella emphasized the significance of the meeting Menem will hold tomorrow with Fidel Castro in Salvador, Brazil, within the framework of the Third Ibero-American Summit.

Di Tella said: "Several topics will be included on the agenda, but the main one will be Cuba's democratization."

He added: "Cuba's $1 billion debt to Argentina, an issue that has not been directly addressed yet, also has been included on the agenda."

Finally, Di Tella noted that several delegations to the UN Decolonization Committee meeting in New York today praised the Argentine president's decision to hold talks with Fidel Castro in his quest for promoting "an urgent democratization" in Cuba.

Di Tella will arrive tomorrow in Brazil after attending a UN Decolonization Committee meeting today, which today unanimously approved a resolution calling for negotiations to resolve the colonial status of the Malvinas Islands.

Di Tella described the resolution "as an excellent result" for the Argentine position.

The resolution, which was sponsored by Venezuela and endorsed by Chile and Cuba, was approved without having to take a vote because all 22 committee members unanimously approved it.

Cuban Official Denies Report of Meeting

PY1407211693 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1855 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By "special correspondent"]

[Text] Salvador, Brazil, 14 Jul (NA)—The Cuban Foreign Ministry this afternoon clearly outlined the differences between its own version and the Argentine version of a meeting that Presidents Carlos Menem and Fidel Castro might hold tomorrow. The Cuban Foreign Ministry assured that it did not ask for the meeting.

Upon arriving in this city last night, Argentine Foreign Policy Director General Fernando Petrella assured that the Cubans had shown interest in a meeting between the two chiefs of state, and that they had sounded out the possibility of a meeting.

This afternoon, Cuban Foreign Ministry spokesman and Press Department chief Angel Argiles said something quite different: "We did not ask for that meeting."

Furthermore, he said that if Argentines want to talk with Fidel Castro, "we will consider it and we probably will grant" an audience.

Argiles said he learned about the possible meeting "through the press." He added: "We do not rule out this possibility because in summits like this chiefs of state ask each other for meetings, and we are willing to evaluate any request from Argentina or any other country, but we do not have official information to confirm the meeting."

When he was told that according to the Argentine Foreign Ministry, it was Castro who wanted the meeting, the spokesman replied: "We have not made any official request for a meeting, but we would be willing to listen to any Argentine request and to consider it with our best will."

Meeting Subject to Robaina-Di Tella Talks

PY1507012793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2258 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 14 Jul (EFE)—Argentine President Carlos Menem and Cuban President Fidel Castro will meet during the Third Ibero-American Summit in Salvador, Bahia State, but only if the respective foreign ministers agree on the topics for discussion.

A senior Argentine Foreign Ministry official told EFE in Salvador that the presidential meeting was slated for 15 July. The meeting was postponed following remarks made from New York by Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella to the effect that he would meet first with his Cuban counterpart, Roberto Robaina, to arrange the meeting.

According to the Argentine source, Cuba asked for the meeting and requested that it be held with "an open agenda."

Argentina, on the contrary, has contended that the two foreign ministers ought to meet first to study, "to deal," and to reach an agreement on the specific issues that Menem and Castro should discuss.

Initially, the two foreign ministers are planning to meet tomorrow morning as soon as Di Tella arrives in Salvador to join the Argentine official delegation to the Third Ibero-American Summit of chiefs of state and government.

If the Menem-Castro meeting materializes, it will be held—for security reasons—at a specially equipped room at the Meridien Hotel in Salvador, where Castro is staying. According to protocol, the meeting should be held at the Othon Hotel, where Menem will be staying, because it was Castro who requested the meeting.

Brazil-Peru 'Friction,' Menem-Castro Summit Talk Possible

PY1407162693 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1412 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Article by Rafel Noboa]

[Text] Bahia, 14 Jul (AFP-NA)—Friction between Brazil and Peru and a possible bilateral meeting between Argentine President Carlos Menem and Cuban President Fidel Castro created expectations in this city the day before the opening of the Third Ibero-American Summit.

According to Peruvian delegation sources, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori decided not to suspend his trip to Salvador this afternoon despite the fact that during a news conference on Tuesday, 13 July, Brazilian President Itamar Franco, who will host the summit, asserted that "there will be no risk of Fujimorization" in Brazil.

Franco reportedly added that in his country there "are a few people who want to interrupt the democratic process, but fortunately they are only a few."

The Peruvian Congress held a secret session after learning of Franco's comments.

A member of the Peruvian delegation told AFP that Franco's statement was interpreted as referring to Brazilian domestic policy and that "this summit is something much more important."

After not attending the Ibero-American Summit in Madrid following his self-inflicted coup in April 1992, Fujimori intends to launch a diplomatic offensive in Salvador on "Peru's new image," after having curbed hyperinflation and captured the guerrilla leadership.

Fujimori will hold a news conference in Salvador shortly after his arrival.

Moreover, the Argentine foreign under secretary during an interview with a Buenos Aires radio station on Tuesday, 13 July, said that it is "possible" that Menem and Castro will hold a meeting.

Before leaving Havana, Cuba's Fidel Castro made it clear that he wants the Salvador summit to issue a declaration condemning the draconian U.S. commercial blockade against his country, implemented 20 years ago and stepped up recently.

Cuba's main critic within the Ibero-American sphere is the Argentine president, who maintains a privileged diplomatic relationship with Washington and, therefore, is the main obstacle to such a declaration.

Spain endorses Argentina's stance to pressure Cuba.

All declarations are approved by consensus at the Ibero-American summits.

The 21 chiefs of state and governments that will participate in the summit on Thursday and Friday, 15 and 16 July, have started to arrive in this city under strict safety measures.

Communists, Anti-Castroists Clash in Salvador

PY1407221793 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1927 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador de Bahia, 14 Jul (AFP-NA)—Some 30 pro-Cuban members of the Communist Party of Brazil (the Marxist-Leninist PCdoB) clashed violently with seven Cuban-Americans in downtown Salvador on the eve of the Third Ibero-American Presidential Summit.

Several of the Cuban-Americans suffered slight injuries.

The two groups met near Campo Grande Square in downtown Salvador. They soon progressed from hurling insults to hurling stones, and the seven Cubans—among whom there were some women—tried to defend themselves with broken beer bottles.

The PCdoB militants hit the Cubans with chairs and other objects.

Among the Cuban-Americans was Roberto Martin Perez, who was imprisoned for 28 years in Cuba; Luis Zuniga Rey, who was imprisoned for 21 years; and Caridad Roque, who was imprisoned for 16 years.

The seven anti-Castroists of the Cuban-American Foundation had just demonstrated against the Fidel Castro regime, wearing placards on their bodies, at Campo Grande Square in downtown Salvador.

The placards linked the Castro regime with drug trafficking, noting that there is prostitution in Cuba. They showed pictures of Cuban jails taken by United Nations workers.

The pro-Castro militants were delivering leaflets calling for a demonstration of support for Cuba for tomorrow, 15 July, near the Convention Center at which the summit will open.

The Cuban-Americans had told AFP that it was impossible for more of their people to come to Salvador because the Brazilian consulate in Miami did not grant the required visas.

Peruvian Proposal Delays Negotiations on Communique

PY1407203193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1734 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador de Bahia, 14 Jul (EFE)—A proposal by the Peruvian delegation to include a strict condemnation against terrorism and drug trafficking today delayed for several hours the negotiations on the draft of the final declaration of the Third Ibero-American Summit.

The deliberations, held behind closed doors in the Salvador Convention Center, were extended due to the opposition of some delegations to including a subject that was broadly discussed at the 1991 Madrid summit in the final declaration's text, a delegate told EFE.

"With this proposal, which no one objects to, the presidents will seem repetitive in the document," said one of the participants in the meeting of technical delegations from 21 countries in charge of preparing the draft of the final declaration, which is 20 pages long.

Until Peru made its suggestion, the past two days of deliberations were carried out at a normal pace at the meeting of the coordinating committee, which is made up of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Spain, and Mexico, as well as at the delegates meeting.

Although there is consensus among the Ibero-American nations to condemn terrorism and drug trafficking, the debate faces a dilemma: Not mentioning the subject might appear to indicate a lack of interest by the governments to face it, and including it would make the presidents seem repetitive.

Besides, the Ibero-American summit, which will last two days and will begin tomorrow, has the definite objective of approving a final resolution that must turn into an economic progress with a social development program.

The delay of this delegates meeting also will delay two other meetings scheduled for today, one to allow the foreign ministers of the coordinating committee to review the final declaration, and another one in which the foreign ministers of the 21 countries must participate.

The Ibero-American Summit will be attended by 18 presidents, King Juan Carlos of Spain, and the prime ministers of Spain, Felipe Gonzalez, and Portugal, Anibal Cavaco Silva.

Businessmen, Labor Leaders Meet, To Petition Leaders

PY1407174493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0538 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Article by Emilio Crespo]

[Text] Salvador de Bahia, 14 Jul (EFE)—The Ibero-American labor and business leaders will, for the first time in history, hold on 15 July a joint meeting within the framework of the Ibero-American Summit of chiefs of state and government and amid a growing rapprochement between the labor and business sectors.

The meetings will be informal and will consist of a lunch and a broad dialogue without a preestablished agenda. They will be attended, as never before, by the leaders of the main business confederations and labor movements in Latin America.

Labor and business spokesmen considered the meetings a demonstration of a growing understanding between two traditional adversaries who now have a common objective of making their governments improve their economic policies and administrative efficiency.

The labor and business leaders, who are holding separate conferences in Salvador de Bahia, have made few attacks against each other in detriment of the governments, which have been the real target of their debates and documents. Each sector is preparing proposals which will be presented at the summit on 15 and 16 July in Salvador de Bahia. The two documents, whose contents were reported by EFE, agree in recognizing, although to a different extent, the need to relieve the social problems of the region.

The labor unions consider that the governments and not the businessmen are responsible for the high unemployment rates, misery, and health problems suffered by tens of millions of people in this continent. The labor leaders of the entire Southern Cone, Andean Zone, Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean accused their governments of forgetting the basic needs of the people by imposing excessively harsh adjustment programs.

Venezuelan union leader Jesus Urbieta, from the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers (CTV), told EFE that his country is a prototype of the social mistakes of the economic policy which has affected the weakest social strata.

Panamanian Luis Anderson, secretary of the Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers (ORIT), which is organizing the conference, told EFE that the Latin American labor leaders agreed to denounce the drop of the social indicators in their countries as a consequence of adjustment policies.

The governments, Anderson added, have allowed unemployment to increase, as have sanitary and housing shortages. They have also not stopped "increasing corruption and squandering in most of their countries."

According to the labor union leaders, the seriousness of the crisis demands now more than ever that businessmen and labor unions resort to dialogue and understanding.

"They want to earn money and we want to defend the workers' income," said Anderson, who considered the two things incompatible.

The businessmen's petition to the presidents will be centered on asking that private businessmen be allowed to participate in the privatization processes and in benefiting from the flow of capital that has begun to return to the region and that during the past decade was mainly spent by the private sector.

The businessmen will also ask the presidents to modernize the state apparatus and make it less bureaucratic, and to stress the fields of education, professional training, and social programs, which are considered to be very important to promote development and reactivate the economy.

Panamanian Eduardo Vallarino, president of the National Council of Private Enterprise (CONEP), told EFE that the labor-management relations are not bad in Latin America and that in his country, like in many others, it is possible to reach an understanding about the main social and labor issues of the nation.

According to spokesmen of the businessmen's conference, there is no reason for the business and labor sector to clash as a consequence of the crisis and on the contrary, it may serve to unite them.

Chilean Social Development Proposal

PY1407205093 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Relay by Manola Robles from Salvador]

[Text] Chilean President Patricio Aylwin and Portuguese President Mario Soares are now traveling to Salvador, Bahia, aboard the FACh [Chilean Air Force]-001 presidential plane to attend the Third Ibero-American Presidential Summit.

One of the issues to be addressed by the presidents of the Americas, Portugal, and Spain will be a Chilean proposal to call for a summit on social development, in search for ways to eliminate or alleviate poverty.

It also has been reported that as of tomorrow, President Aylwin will hold bilateral meetings with some chiefs of state, especially of Central American countries he could not visit because of his busy agenda. The Chilean president decided to hold private talks with each of these Central American presidents in order to personally give the appropriate explanations.

Another key issue at this summit will be to make Spain and Portugal work within the EEC for the elimination of the protectionist measures that are obviously harming countries like Chile.

Popular Movements Hold 'Parallel Summit'

PY1407231393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1551 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, 14 Jul (EFE)—A parallel summit of popular organizations from six countries today, 14 July, urged Ibero-American chiefs of state to voice their opposition to the economic adjustments demanded by the IMF and to excessive payments on the foreign debt.

Delegates from popular movements in Brazil, Cuba, Guatemala, Spain, Argentina, and Peru this week held a "parallel summit" at Bahia University, under the sponsorship of Salvador Mayor Lidice da Matta.

On 15 July, the "parallel summit" will issue a document with recommendations for the Ibero-American chiefs of state, who on 16 July will approve a final declaration that will establish guidelines for a joint development program.

Those attending the parallel summit claimed that Latin America's foreign debt, which stands at $430 billion, is "illegitimate" because "it was not contracted by the people. For example, the Brazilian debt grew 30 percent in the years of the military dictatorship."

The "parallel summit" also addressed a wide variety of matters ranging from the restructuring of the United Nations—in order to democratize it and make it give up its role of world policeman, like in Somalia—to violence and discrimination against individuals or communities of black people, women, indigenous groups, homosexuals, peasants, and workers.

The delegates urged the chiefs of state, who will meet for the next two days in Salvador, to adopt a position against "the use of the UN Security Council for military purposes against other countries and against the council's support for invasions by the great powers, like the U.S. invasions of Grenada and Panama."

"The Security Council should be urgently modified in order to reduce the weight of the United States and expand the representation of developing countries," said a document prepared by the "parallel summit."

The delegates demanded defensive measures within the United Nations through the creation of specific commissariats to preserve the rights of discriminated social groups like blacks, women, indigenous people, and homosexuals.

They also suggested the creation within the United Nations of a special fund for the development of poorer countries and for helping regions in emergencies, and the adoption of urgent and effective measures for enforcing the decisions made by the UN Conference on Development and the Environment (Rio de Janeiro, 1992).

Even though the delegates do not oppose repaying the foreign debt, the popular organizations that held the summit believe the debt burden should be reduced for those countries affected by starvation, malnutrition, unemployment, and education and health deficiencies.

The chiefs of state were urged to issue a statement on "the negative repercussion that the enforcement of the economic adjustment programs demanded by the IMF—for repaying the foreign debt—will have for the survival of the 200 million poor people of Latin America."

The popular movements urged the chiefs of state to authorize the presence of representatives of nongovernmental organizations (NGO's) in regional and subregional organizations like the Andean Group and the Common Market of the South (Mercosur).

Cuba

Country Placing Mines, Closing Off Guantanamo Bay

PA1507044593 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2103 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Guantanamo, 14 Jul (NOTIMEX)—The Cuban Government is building a mine fence in the bay adjacent to Guantanamo Naval Base to avoid an increase in illegal departures of thousands of Cubans through that sensitive border area between Havana and Washington. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba began to close off the bay near Pin Pin Cay, which is between the small town of Caimanera and Guantanamo Naval Base, one of the chief points for illegal departures from the country.

In addition to the 30-km-long mine barrier, barbed wire, and cacti that have divided the U.S. base from Cuban territory for years, a fence measuring approximately 500 meters and reinforced with mines will be built over the entire causeway and mouth of the bay. [passage omitted] Residents of Caimanera, the town adjacent to the military base, told NOTIMEX that border patrols had not killed anyone who was trying to enter the naval base illegally. They did confirm that once in a while a border patrol hurls grenades into the water to scare those who seek to leave the island illegally.

Brigade General Jose Solar, chief of the regular troops of the Eastern Army, told NOTIMEX that work is being conducted to close the bay and avoid illegal departures, while the mines system is being improved to ensure the defense of the island against a possible U.S. aggression. He admitted that the number of illegal exits through the naval base went up in recent years, but warned that this is a "highly dangerous" zone because of the mines that exists on either side of the line that divides Cuba from the bay.

Gen. Solar said the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo is obsolete and exists "against the will of the Cuban people." He added: "The U.S. Government only maintains it as a show of force against country." [passage omitted]

Commentary Notes U.S. Opposition to Continuing Embargo

PA1407141993 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] The U.S. embargo on any kind of scientific, commercial, cultural, and sports exchange that yields profits to Cuba has brought losses to this country of over $40 billion. It has also had negative consequences in the United States. U.S. businessmen who have come to Cuba in recent years, attracted by the possibilities that exist here for joint ventures, regretted the existence in their country of a complicated legal web that prevents them from participating in projects of interest to them.

A poll taken in late 1992 by John Hopkins University showed the lack of support among the majority of the U.S. people for the embargo on Cuba. In addition, 30 percent of those surveyed favored lifting the embargo. In fact, a number of those surveyed said they were unaware of the true meaning of that pressure tactic. Political, scientific, business, and political figures, such as former attorney general Ramsey Clark, have publicly urged ending the embargo. Clark's statement had repercussions on the U.S. political scene because he is an influential person, who is well-known to the media.

The topic of lifting the embargo revolves around sectors close to the Congress. In fact, African-American Representative Charles Rangel endorsed a measure to that effect. It is not surprising that Pittsburgh, capital [as heard] of Pennsylvania, asked city residents to donate food to the Friendship Motorcade, organized by the Pastors for Peace organization for the second year in a row. The Pittsburgh Urban Council recalled a 1992 UN General Assembly resolution on the international illegality of the embargo to call on its citizens to support the humanitarian work by Pastors for Peace. The work by this ecumenical entity, which will visit 120 U.S. cities in the next few weeks, will show, as it did last year, how outdated the U.S. embargo against Cuba is, and the lack of reasons for maintaining it.

Roundup of Economic Activity Reported 8 Jul-14 Jul

FL1507020693

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana Radio and Television in Spanish between 8 July and 14 July.

Radio Rebelde at 2300 GMT on 8 July reports that the (?Guanavo del Cine) Industrial Enterprise will manufacture 50 super-train buses in 1993 for transporting passengers in Havana City. The enterprise has delivered the first five to the Provincial Transportation Directorate. They are in use at the Alamar and Habana del Este terminals. Each vehicle has a capacity of 315 passengers and can substitute for three regular urban buses.

Radio Reloj at 1406 GMT on 12 July reports that workers in Camaguey Province are working to install four five-megawatt turbo generators. Three are being installed at the Panama Sugarcane Complex and the fourth is being installed at the Brazil Sugarcane Complex. They will begin operating at the beginning of the next sugarcane harvest. The province has 40 turbo generators, and of those 22 contribute power to the national electricity network.

Radio Rebelde at 1700 GMT on 12 July reports that Santiago de Cuba Province is making medical advances in honor of the 26 July Moncada Barracks assault

celebration. Infant mortality is at 9.7 per 1,000 live births, the maternity death rate is 2.6 per 10,000 pregnancies, and the general mortality rate is 5.5 per 100,000 inhabitants. The province boasts 29,000 health workers. A new retinitis pigmentosa treatment center is to be inaugurated in the next few days. This will be the seventh center of this type in Cuba.

Cuba Vision at 2220 GMT on 12 July reports that Holguin's achievements in the sugarcane recovery was highlighted during a meeting between representatives of the provincial sugar industry and the People's Government. In the first half of 1993, sugar workers have been able to weed more than 30,000 caballerias of sugarcane. They have planted 950 caballerias and fertilized 7,000 caballerias.

Radio Rebelde at 2300 GMT on 12 July reports that a group of 29 Puerto Rican teachers and farmers have arrived in Santiago de Cuba bringing an important donation of medicines—mostly multivitamins—and school and office supplies.

Radio Progreso at 1100 GMT on 13 July reports that an Argentine health and education group has donated 5 tons of school supplies and medicine.

Radio Reloj at 1949 GMT on 13 July reports that Ciego de Avila Province is behind in cane-planting. The province planted only 74 percent of the plan for the first six months of the year, failing to plant some 400 caballerias. Up to the end of June, the state farms and small farmers together had planted approximately 1,165 caballerias. The causes for failing to meet the planting plan were excessive humidity in parts of the north and a lack of resources to ensure land preparation. The effort of the small farmer sector should be noted. This sector exceeded the plan for the period by 8 percent.

Cuba Vision Network's "Open Agenda" program at 0100 GMT on 14 July reports that this year Cuba has received donations from 52 countries, in contrast to the 43 countries that sent material aid in 1992. The Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples records the origin, date, content, and value of all donations, and the recipients. Out of concern for purity, all unsealed foods and medicines coming into the country are discarded.

Radio Rebelde at 1155 GMT on 14 July reports that direct flights between Europe and Cayo Largo del Sur on the Isle of Youth will be inaugurated today when a plane from Milan, Italy arrives with tourists, journalists, and travel agents.

Radio Reloj Network at 1948 GMT on 14 July reports that over the past three years, the number of trained oxen in agricultural livestock enterprises and cooperatives throughout the country increased to 109,000, from 49,000. In 1990, 22 percent of the oxen used in agricultural tasks belonged to that sector. The Agriculture Ministry's goal is to have 158,000 animals in the state and private sectors.

Radio Reloj Network at 1951 GMT on 14 July reports that Pinar del Rio Province has built more houses this year than in the past three years. Approximately 974 houses were built in the province during the first six months of 1993. By the end of 1993, workers hope to have completed 2,400 units.

Largest Healthcare Professional Graduating Class Noted

FL1407000993 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Santiago de Cuba's Higher Institute of Medical Sciences will have the largest graduating class in its history this year: 733 healthcare specialists. The first 42 Bachelors of Arts in Nursing from the Carlos J. Finlay detachment will be receiving their degrees, thereby bringing to 904 the number of professionals in this specialty, which did not exist in the province before the triumph of the revolution. Among the healthcare specialists who will be graduating soon are 525 doctors, most of whom will work as Family Doctor Program physicians. In this way, the province will improve still further its level of primary health care, which at present covers 84 percent of the province's population.

The Higher Institute of Medical Sciences points out that the professionals who will be receiving their degrees at the "Fortieth Anniversary of the [Attack on the] Moncada [Garrison]" graduation participated in a significant manner in the lines of research being carried out by this center for higher studies.

Director Inaugurates Cuban Television Station

FL1307020493

[Editorial Report] Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish at 2322 GMT on 12 July reports that (Federico Mayor Saragosa), director general of UNESCO, inaugurated the new "Television Serrana" station today. The station will benefit the mountainous areas of the eastern provinces; specifically, rural areas of San Pablo de Yao.

The project is being sponsored by the National Association of Small Farmers in cooperation with UNESCO, the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television [ICRT], and provincial authorities of Granma Province.

Comrade (Daniel Pies) is currently the director of the "Television Serrana" station. ICRT President Enrique Roman, UNESCO regional director Hernan Crespo Doral, Raul Roa Kouri, Cuban ambassador to UNESCO [as heard], and other high-ranking UNESCO officials attended the inaugural ceremony.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

OECS, French Caribbean States Discuss Links

FL1307022393 Bridgetown CANA in English 2051 GMT 12 Jul 93

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, July 12, CANA—Government officials from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and French Caribbean territories have discussed ways to improve shipping and telecommunication links among themselves at recent talks in Guadeloupe on regional co-operation.

A statement issued here Monday said the purpose of the meeting was to explore possibilities for the participation of Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Cayenne in regional programmes and projects to be funded by the European Community under Lome 1V, the aid and trade pact linking the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) states and Europe.

"It is anticipated there will be a linking with the priority projects identified by the (Caribbean) ACP states...With similar priority programmes on the French side thereby facilitating wider regional integration in the development effort in the region," the statement said. It said the French authorities will seek additional funding from within the European Community's resources to increase the total sum of financial resources available.

OECS director general, Dr. Vaughn Lewis, who led the delegation, held separate talks with French Government ministers, "on the need to deepen relations and inter alia, on the need for a more efficient and effective transportation and telecommunications network between OECS member states and French overseas departments." The statement said particular attention was paid to inter-island shipping.

"Discussions focused also on the development of stronger cultural and sporting ties," the statement said, adding the meeting also discussed the "possibilities for broadening cooperation with the French government in the areas of industry and trade, training, tourism, agriculture, and fisheries."

The statement said Dr. Lewis reviewed the status of the negotiations held so far within the framework of a co-operation agreement between the OECS and France relating to OECS-Martinique, Guadeloupe relations.

The OECS groups the islands of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Montserrat, and St. Kitts-Nevis.

Dominica

Brussels Embassy Closes Per OECS Diplomacy Decision

FL1507015993 Bridgetown CANA in English 2147 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, July 14, CANA—Dominica on Wednesday [14 July] said it was closing its embassy in Brussels, following a decision by the seven-nation organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to have joint diplomatic in this key European capital which is the home of the European Community.

External Affairs Minister Brian Alleyne said Ambassador Charles Savarin was currently here for discussions with his ministry about the closure of the mission. Alleyne said Savarin's future in the public service of Dominica was another matter being discussed.

St. Lucian diplomat Edwin Laurent will head the new OECS Embassy in Brussels. Many here had thought Savarin would have received the job given his long experience in dealing with Caribbean-European Community issues.

Haiti

Further on Parliamentary Delegation for New York Meeting

FL1407200493 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Recorded passages in Creole]

[Text] On 13 July, about 30 political officials and Haitian parliamentarians left Port-au-Prince for New York where they will hold a political dialogue under the aegis of the United Nations and the OAS to normalize Parliament so it can ratify the appointment of a new prime minister. Deputies Joseph Lambert, Pierre Simon Georges, and Rita Frederic Moncoeur represent the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion [ACP] bloc for the lower chamber. The socialist bloc is represented by Senators Sege Gilles, Duly Brutus, Sorel Jacinthe, and Laveaux Jean-Baptiste. Antony Barbier and Jean- Lesly Dominique are the socialist bloc's counselors. The National Front for Change and Democracy is represented by Jude Marie Hyacinthe, Rindal Pierre-Canel, Fignole Jean-Louis, Patrick Norzeus, Alexandre Medard, and Victor Benoit for the National Congress of Democratic Movements.

During a news conference on the afternoon of 13 July, Antoine Joseph, president of the delegation of the ACP bloc for the lower chamber said that despite some difficulties there is hope.

[Begin Joseph recording] We in the Chamber of Deputies can say we are ready. We are ready because the choices have been made from political groups that—I can say—

form the ACP, that is the Group for the Maintenance of Democracy [Groupe Pour le Maintien de la Democracy, GPMD], the Christian Democrat Group [GDC] which is a new group that has Christian Democratic leanings, and finally the Progressive Liberals Group [GLP] that has liberal leanings. In principle, each of these groups has a representative. For the GDC, it is colleague Lambert; for the GPMD, it is colleague Simon. Finally, the GLP withdrew so colleague Rita Frederic Moncoeur [member of the Union for National Reconstruction, neomacoute political party created by late Dr. Roger Lafontant] can participate in the delegation. The GLP said that it has decided not to send candidates [as heard] just to support colleague Rita Frederic Moncoeur's participation. Well, I do not think it is a problem because I am a GLP member. [end recording]

Deputy Antoine Joseph also said that he hoped a solution would be found to the crisis by the Parliament before the 14 July meeting.

[Begin Joseph recording] What I have in mind is that talks are held so the Parliament's problem could be solved within 48 hours. But in the meantime, the senators seem to have hardened their stand even more. Consequently, we have lost the optimism that we once had. Unfortunately, the Parliament's problem will be raised at the national conference whereas I wished to solve the problem in Haiti. There was no need for the problem to be discussed at the national conference. [end recording]

[Unidentified journalist] Thank you very much.

Senators Firmin Jean-Louis, Jacques Rony Mondestin, Turneb Delpe, Yvon Gislain, Jean-Robert Martinez, and Herard Pauyo are going to represent the Parliament's Constitutionalist Anticorruption Bloc. The ACP delegation is made up of Senators [Thomas Eddy] Dupiton, Dejean Belizaire, Julio Larosiliere, and three parliamentarians elected on 18 January including (Margareth Martin), Osny Eugene, Amos Andre.

Let us listen to Antoine Joseph's delegation at the microphone of Dally Valet.

[Begin recording] [Joseph] I do not want to interfere in the Senate's [internal] business. Also, I protested that the Senate does not have the right to tell me who should participate [in the 14 July New York meeting as representatives of] the Chamber of Deputies because some senators, who straightaway made choices, attempted to do so. They had pointed out the ACD deputies they wanted [to represent the ACP branch in the lower chamber] whereas they do not have this right. If I question this right that they do not have, I do not believe that I can go and say what senators should be part of the delegation. It is up to them to know how they will defend their file, whom they would like to be there, and who is best prepared to defend the file.

[Valet] You in the Chamber of Deputies will not have problems no matter whom the Senate sends [to participate in the meeting]?

[Joseph] No. Personally [corrects himself], likewise, I hope the Senate is not supposed to have problems as to the members I will send as members of the delegation of the Chamber of Deputies.

[Valet] Will that be not a problem if, for example, the 18 January parliamentarians are a majority of the delegation?

[Joseph] I do not believe this is the best approach. I do not believe (?you can say) this approach is the effective approach. The Senate might send the entire Senate to the national conference. That will depend on how you will try to have ideas pass. That will depend on the intelligence with which you tackle the idea. That will depend as well on the guise under which you try to have your stand pass. They might have only one member and that that only member manages to impose the stand of the 18 January [parliamentarians]. Also, they might have 50 and that those 50 do not manage to have the idea pass. So, in my opinion, it is not a question of number, it is a question of logic, the logic which will be included in the solution which comes up, a solution which is reasonable. [end recording]

That is it. The international community, especially Dante Caputo, must prepare again to shuttle (?just) like he did during the Aristide-Cedras meeting because this strong presence of the 18 January parliamentarians in the ACP delegation who are going to participate in this meeting will hinder or prevent face-to-face meetings between the two groups. From the start, I do not want to sit around the same table as the parliamentarians elected on 18 January because those elections were questioned, stated Deputy Alexandre Medard on the afternoon of 13 July, before his departure for New York. Dr. Medard, nevertheless, acknowledged that the question of the 18 January parliamentarians can constitute one of the points of the agenda of discussions. Let us listen to Deputy Medard at the microphone of GB [Gary Belizaire].

[Begin recording] [Medard] What I know is that the 18 January elections are not a point forming the subject of negotiations. From the start, I will not sit with people elected on 18 January because these elections have always been questioned. We may negotiate on the elections. But members [rephrases] these elected representatives cannot sit straightaway around the table because the (?conditions) have been specified.

[GB] (?What about) Amos Andre, Osny Eugene, (Margareth Martin), and so on? They are part of the Senate delegation.

[Medard] Do they meet the conditions.... [rephrases] Are they members of political parties? On what basis will they sit? That is the problem.

[GB] [words indistinct] to acknowledge them as senators?

[Medard] On what basis? From what? [end recording]

New York Meeting Delegation Continued

FL1407164593 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Excerpts] The representatives of the principal Haitian political parties represented in the parliament are meeting today at UN Headquarters. The political talks have therefore begun, as provided for in the Governors Island Accord, in order to reach a social pact and a truce which would facilitate a peaceful transition in Haiti. One of the first objectives of these talks is to normalize the operation of the parliament and to ratify the prime minister, who will be designated by President Aristide. Once the ratified prime minister is in place, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali will recommend the immediate suspension of the sanctions and the embargo. The political talks started today will be supervised by mediator Dante Caputo, who executed the Governors Island Accord signed on 3 July between Jean-Bertrand Aristide and Raoul Cedras.

The delegations to the New York meeting left Port-au-Prince on 13 July. A total of more than 20 leaders accepted Dante Caputo's invitation to this inter-Haitian talk. Four parliamentary delegations, originating from the different political blocs, will participate in the discussions together with several politicians and party heads.

These talks should result in the normalization of Parliament and the Haitian political sector. Edner Jean reports that the delegations include several senators elected during the contested 18 January elections.

[Begin recording] Dejean Belizaire is leading the Alliance delegation. It is reported that he was invited by Dante Caputo. Intent on these official meetings, Senator Belizaire heads the Alliance legislators, who are going to participate in the talks in New York. Furthermore, he will be accompanied by three other senators elected in the contested 18 January elections. They are Amos Andre, (Margarette Martin), and Osny Eugene. Julio Larossilere and Ebrane Cadet are also part of the delegation. Rita Frederic Moncoeur and Pierre Simon Georges are the only two deputies in the delegation.

Deputy Antoine Joseph protested the composition of the delegation. He stated that it was necessary that the delegation reflect the different political leanings in the Alliance. As such, the president of the Chamber of Deputies wanted to add the names of two other deputies in the place of two elected on 18 January to the list presented by Senator Dejean Belizaire. [passage omitted]

Sen. Serge Joseph raised the same arguments to justify the strong presence of the contested senators within the Alliance delegation. He explained that they want to defend their parliamentary seats. Those elected on 18 January are trying to avoid being stabbed in the back. Sen. Serge Joseph furthermore denied the information provided by Dante Caputo's political adviser, Leandro Despouy, who indicated that the 18 January senators were about to accept withdrawing temporarily from the parliament. He explained that the talks will continue in that sense.

However, Sen. Ancion's statements are still remembered: I would rather die before leaving parliament. Sen. Serge Joseph showed some reserve regarding such statements. [passage omitted]

The socialist bloc delegation will be composed of Serge Gilles, Dully Brutus, Antony Barbier, Sorel Yacinthe, and Lavaud Jean- Baptiste. Judes Mary Yacinthe, Pierre Canel Joseph Rindal, Fignole Jean-Louis, Patrick Norseus, Victor Benoit, and Alexandre Medard are in the National Front for Change and Democracy, FNCD delegation. The senators from the FNCD and its allies are Rony Mondestin, Turneb Delpe, Yvon Gislain, Jean-Robert Martinez, and Herard Pauyo. [end recording]

The political leaders present at these talks at UN Headquarters also include, Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul for the FNCD and Rene Theodore from the Movement of National Reconstruction, MRN. Seven members of the presidential commission, led by Father Antoine Adrien, a close partisan of President Aristide, are also part of the delegation as well as 20 representatives of the four opposing political blocs in the parliament.

Trinidad and Tobago

Opposition Stresses Tobago Above Barbados, Guyana

FL1507010993 Bridgetown CANA in English 2042 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 14, CANA—Opposition National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) party chairman, Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo, on Wednesday called on Prime Minister Patrick Manning to forge closer ties with the sister island, Tobago, before pursuing economic and political cooperation with Barbados and Guyana.

"I want to say that it is very clear to us that in the present scheme of things, not only have no consultations been had with Tobagonians, but Mr. Manning himself has taken the position that we must integrate our economies with Barbados and Guyana," said the former Trinidad and Tobago foreign minister.

"While that has much to commend itself, it would appear to the NAR that if Mr. Manning is to move forward with this particular project, he must demonstrate fairly and clearly and squarely that he is not prepared to isolate Tobago in the politics of the nation state because that in itself will not serve him well in this new political endeavour."

Basdeo was responding to recent statements from the government that it intended to relocate some TT113 million dollars to other projects in Tobago, instead of spending it on building a link road as originally planned.

Political leader of the NAR, former Finance Minister Selby ilson, also said Manning could not be serious about forging deeper political and economic ties between Trinidad and Tobago and the rest of the Caribbean if he did not know how to deal "honestly, fairly and impartially" with the sister-isle.

Wilson said while Manning was holding out the olive branch to Tobago he was diverting grant funds from Tobago intended for the development of tourism-related infrastructure witnout consulting either the Tobago House of Assembly, which runs the island's day-to-day affairs, or the Tobago's two NAR parliamentary representatives.

"This is yet another act of deception and dishonesty perpetrated against the people of Tobago in complete violation of their constitutional rights," he said.

El Salvador

Cristiani, FMLN's Handal on Deadline for Armed Dissidents

PA1507031693 San Salvador TCS Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has denied any ties with armed groups that have been carrying out attacks. The government, however, has held the FMLN responsible for the groups' dismantlement by 4 August at the latest. As Norma Jimenez reported, the FMLN command has said that threats are not the way to reach an agreement:

[Begin recording] [Cristiani] It does not matter to us whether they are FMLN members or dissidents, because we will act against them beginning 4 August.

[Jimenez] That statement set everything in motion. The government thinks that these groups, reportedly made up of former FMLN combatants, are near San Salvador Volcano, Guazapa Hill, Santa Ana, northern Morazan, Chalatenango, and San Vicente Volcano.

[Unidentified speaker] We were not given an ultimatum or deadline. As for the so-called dissident groups, we do not have any dissident groups. In certain cases there are actually some groups made up of Army members, and as an exception, they could also include someone who had ties with the FMLN in the past.

[Jimenez] The Cristiani administration said the groups will be treated as criminals if they have not been dismantled by 4 August. The FMLN's Shafik Handal said this situation should be handled by the UN Observers for El Salvador [Onusal], not the government:

[Handal] President Cristiani has suddenly started making threats. He said he will deploy troops against those groups. Threats do not solve problems.

[Jimenez] This issue is being discussed by Onusal and FMLN representatives at weekly meetings to assess compliance with the peace agreements. Onusal continues to investigate the origin of these armed groups in various points of the country to determine what actions to adopt should the situation persist after the deadline established by the United Nations for the definitive disarmament of the FMLN expires. [end recording]

FMLN, ONUSAL, Copaz View Cristiani Order on Patrols

PA1407234393 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] A commission of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, Party has met with members of ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador] and Copaz [National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace] to analyze President Cristiani's measure ordering Army patrols to fight crime on the country's roads. FMLN General Coordinator Shafik Handal, questioned this measure noting that he feels that the Constitution only cites a case when the president can order the Army to the streets and such a case has not occurred.

Cristiani, Mexico's Salinas Meet on Trade Relations

PA1407162493 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Alfredo Cristiani and Carlos Salinas de Gortari, presidents of El Salvador and Mexico, respectively, met at the presidency on the afternoon and evening of 13 July to talk about the Salvadoran peace process and the new trade relations between the two countries.

Sources at the presidency reported that Cristiani told Salinas about the fulfillment of the peace agreements and their serious violation by former Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front rebels, who concealed weapons inside and outside the country.

Cristiani talked to Salinas regarding concern expressed by a Salvadoran private enterprise group over the signing of a free trade agreement between El Salvador and Mexico. Private businessmen believe Mexican products would flood the local market and bankrupt many local plants. On 12 July, Cristiani said there is nothing to fear from the free trade agreement. Some experts have said economic integration between neighboring countries must not be delayed further if the isolation brought about by the new world order is to be avoided.

Some 300 Salvadoran businessmen will meet with Salinas at a local hotel early on 14 July to discuss economic and commercial relations between the two countries. In the breakfast meeting, Salinas will present to the Salvadoran businessmen the most important aspects of an eventual free trade agreement between El Salvador and Mexico, regarded as essential to deal with the commercial challenges of the new world order. The meeting will also serve to discuss the supply and demand of Mexican and Salvadoran products, the possibility of creating joint enterprises between businessmen from the two countries, and the tariff system to govern exports between the two countries, it was reported.

New Prosecutor General Lainez Resigns

PA1407224693 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Legislative Assembly President Roberto Angulo has confirmed the resignation of new Prosecutor General Manuel Lainez who says he is resigning for personal reasons.

Meanwhile, Deputy Gloria Salguero Gross stressed that Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] already has the names of three jurists as candidates for the post. She added that Arena already counts on, with the votes of the Christian Democratic Party, getting one of these candidates elected.

Guatemala

New Defense Ministry Chief of Staff Appointed

PA1507043093 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 14 Jul 93 p 14

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Luis Fernandez Ligorria, current acting director of the National Police, was appointed chief of staff of the Defense Ministry, the National Police press office announced.

Deputy Chief Constable Gonzalo Figueroa Castellanos said Fernandez Ligorria was appointed to this important post because of his perseverance and responsibility in the fulfillment of the various duties given to him in the National Army.

Figueroa also said Fernandez proved to be an efficient officer at the National Police, where he contributed to many achievements and to the success of police operations.

Finally, Figueroa Castellanos said that while Fernandez Ligorria was acting director of the National Police he cooperated with the various media and opened his office door to them.

Honduras

Poll Reveals Candidates in Close Race

PA1507011293 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Jul 93 p 59

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The general elections are scarcely four months away and the political panorama is still unclear. There are no real favorites. At least that is what the latest CID-Gallup poll reveals, giving a small edge to liberal Carlos Roberto Reina. The poll also shows that most people think that nationalist Oswaldo Ramos Soto will win.

The poll was conducted between 21 and 30 June among 1,426 Hondurans. The results show that the two leading presidential candidates are practically tied with Carlos Roberto Reina having a slight advantage.

Oswaldo Ramos of the National Party [PN] "has been affected by the Callejas administration, which the people resent."

Paradoxically, the same poll shows that there are more nationalists than liberals, but "members of the first group (PN) are still doubtful about the risk of the PN remaining in power. Their rejection is directed primarily at the party and Callejas, not at Oswaldo Ramos.

Reina is stronger than Ramos Soto in big cities, but the candidates are tied in Tegucigalpa. The PN is in a better position throughout the rest of the country.

Although the outlook is still unclear, people are increasingly making up their minds about how to vote. In other words, an increasing number of likely voters have made up their minds about how they will vote. During the first six months of this year there has been a virtual tie between Ramos and Reina.

The poll also includes a segment on "the likelihood of voting" in the November elections. In that section CID-Gallup says: The candidates received almost equal ratings among those who said they were likely to vote in the November elections. Reina received a fraction more than Ramos in that group.

According to the poll, the negative impact of the economic measures applied by President Callejas is obvious. Sixteen percent of those who voted for Callejas in 1989 prefer the Liberal Party's Reina in 1993. In contrast, relatively few from the group who supported Carlos Flores in 1989 plan to vote for Ramos Soto.

Overall View

Following a period in 1992 when there was a surge of optimism in Honduras, public opinion changed course during the first six months of 1993. The people think their economic situation is worse than it was last year. They think the cost of living and personal insecurity have increased and that prospects for the future are not good.

The roots of this pessimism lie in the country's economic problems, for which Hondurans blame Rafael Leonardo Callejas' government. Following a gradual improvement in the polls, Callejas' administration suffered a 19-point decline in public opinion. The only worse evaluation was at the beginning of Callejas' term when the economic program had been implemented and its negative effects felt.

The government's loss of popularity is having a negative impact on Oswaldo Ramos Soto's efforts to win the presidency and might even make him lose the election. It is a factor that favors Carlos R. Reina. Four months before the elections, Ramos and Reina are fighting for the presidency in an election that appears to be very "close."

Reina has the advantage in cities, where there are more wage earners in general. However, that is not the case in rural areas, where the government's economic measures are more intensely felt. Nevertheless, it must be noted that most people believe Ramos will win the elections.

It is interesting to note that the nationalist mayoral candidates in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, Nora de Melgar and Samuel Bogran respectively, have more supporters than the liberals.

With the high cost of living, robberies and other criminal acts are perceived as more frequent and increasingly widespread. One in every 10 Hondurans has been the victim of a crime, and one in every five Hondurans said they knew someone who uses illicit drugs. We must

thoroughly examine to what extent those situations will increase the country's crime rate.

Despite those situations, there has been less pessimism about the future. It is possible that people think the elections will bring about positive changes. The question, even with the tie between the two leading candidates, is which of the two will head the new government in 1994. Right now people believe Ramos will win. Although the people might disapprove of Carlos Reina due to the nationalist administration, he might attract the votes of Hondurans dissatisfied with the nationalist government and not with its candidate.

Significant Findings

The National Party has more followers than the Liberal Party; it has a two-point edge.

The two leading parties have been in a virtual tie for the past 12 months.

There is a greater number of people with a positive view of President Callejas' administration than a negative view. Public opinion on President Callejas' administration dropped 19 points in the first six months of the 1993.

Most of the respondents think Callejas has handled the cost of living increases poorly or very poorly. That is why they are not satisfied with his work as head of the government.

Three out of every four Hondurans have identification cards, which will allow them to vote on 28 November 1993.

Carlos Roberto Reina and Oswaldo Ramos are in a virtual tie among those asked how they would vote.

Hondurans are not familiar with their favorite candidates' new policy.

Hondurans said a candidate's personal traits and political party were more important than other aspects in determining how they would vote.

The majority of Hondurans believes that Ramos will win the presidential election.

Had the election for mayor of Tegucigalpa been held on the day of the poll, Nora de Melgar would have won.

Had the election for mayor of San Pedro Sula been held on the day of the poll, Samuel Bogran would have won.

The majority of respondents thinks the country is on the wrong track with the number of people who think so increasing every day.

Cost of living increases are Honduras' main problem. Unemployment is next.

The majority thinks the cost of living increases too much.

Two out of every three citizens said his family's economic situation is worse than last year's.

One out of every 10 Hondurans has been robbed or assaulted so far this year.

The majority thinks the personal safety situation is worse than last year.

One out of every five respondents knows someone who uses illegal drugs. Nine out of every 10 thinks drug use and trafficking is very troublesome in Honduras.

The majority does not think the government is paying sufficient attention to the drug problem.

A minority thinks the United States is helping Honduras fight drugs.

Most of the respondents say either that they do not think there are any U.S. troops in Honduras or that they do not know if any U.S. troops are in the country.

Most of those familiar with U.S. Ambassador Crescencio Arcos's activities in the country agree with him.

Hondurans believe that military personnel who commit crimes should be tried by civilian courts.

The number of Hondurans with a negative view of the country's economic future is greater than the number with a positive view.

Nicaragua

Rearmed Rebels Attack Army Vehicle; Violence Increases

PA1507043793 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1030 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Violence intensifies in the north. Rearmed rebels attacked an Army vehicle escorting a Development Bank money shipment in Telpaneca, resulting in the deaths of several soldiers. In other actions, two Sandinist People's Army soldiers were killed and 15 were wounded. Clashes between National Salvation Democratic Front [FSDN] rebels and Army troops took place in Telpaneca, La Patriota, Rio Blanco, and Waslala. There has also been fighting in Susucayan. Transportation in some places has been suspended, following a communique issued by the FSDN 380 Northern Front threatening to attack any vehicle moving along the highways.

The latest reports from the northern region state that several Sandinist cooperative vehicles have been burned. The main truck and bus cooperative in Jinotega has agreed to halt its activities. The 380 Northern Front has presented its political position to President Chamorro, after the government failed to fulfill its economic commitments.

More on Attacks

PA1507020993 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1030 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Violence has intensified in the northern part of the country. Rearmed men attacked a Sandinist People's Army [EPS] vehicle that was guarding a money transfer from the National Development Bank in the Telpaneca area. Several soldiers were killed in the attack. Other armed actions have left two EPS soldiers dead and 15 wounded.

Soldiers have clashed with rearmed men, possibly of the Nicaraguan Resistance Northern Front 380, in several areas, including Telpaneca, La Patriota, Rio Blanco, and Waslala. There have also been clashes in Susucayan.

Travel has been suspended in some areas in response to the Nicaraguan Resistance Northern Front 380 communique released over the 10 July weekend threatening to attack any vehicle on the country's roads.

Last minute reports from the north state that several trucks belonging to Sandinist cooperatives have been set on fire and that the main cooperative of trucks and buses in Jinotega Department has agreed to suspend its activities.

The Nicaraguan Resistance Northern Front 380 has made political proposals to President Chamorro after the government failed to fulfill the economic agreements it had signed.

Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo said he was warned during a 5 July meeting between the bishops and government that violence could intensify in the north.

The former Nicaraguan Resistance members have told us that only 30 percent of the offered lands have been delivered, and much of that is in the hands of Sandinists, said the cardinal.

* Ariel Bucardo on Dialogue, Cooperatives

93CA0143A Managua EL SEMANARIO in Spanish No 137, 27 May 93-2 Jun 93

[Interview with Ariel Bucardo, UNAG vice president and Fenacoop president, by Fabian Medina and Edgard Solorzano; place and date not given; first four paragraphs are EL SEMANARIO introduction]

[Text] Born in Sauce, Leon, 52 years ago, his first involvement in Agrarian Reform came as a "land occupier" during the 1960's, when he was working with poor peasants. He was a cotton and sugarcane harvester. He joined the Sandinist Front in 1975 and since then has been involved in agrarian problems. At the present time he is vice president of UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen] and president of Fenacoop [National Federation of Cooperatives].

His first conflicts were with the Sandinist state itself, since many lands turned over in territories liberated before 1979 and in the first years of the revolution were later returned to their former owners, and the campesinos became simple farm workers. Since then they have begun to talk of campesino landowners in response to the dispute with the state and at the same time to create a real campesino organization.

His work day starts at 0500 and generally ends at 2200 or 2300. He has been vice president of UNAG since 1982, a member of its National Board of Directors since 1980, and the leading negotiator at the Dialogue Table with the government on the agricultural season.

In this interview with EL SEMANARIO, Bucardo discusses the major problems facing small and medium-sized farmers, who are organized in about 2,000 cooperatives with 2 million manzanas of land.

[EL SEMANARIO] What is UNAG's relationship with the Sandinist Front? Do you receive instructions from this organization?

[Bucardo] UNAG is an organization with its own structure and it is not subject to any partisan structure. If we have any relationship with the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], it is because of the activism of many of our members. But UNAG has its own structures, bylaws, leadership organizations, congresses, and its own officials; that is what it is subject to. Obviously, our initial ties were to the Sandinist Front. But this does not mean that the front decides what UNAG should do. We stand alone and we have relations with all the existing parties and organizations. There are even some UNAG members who belonged to the Contras, which means that our organization has opened up its membership roster.

[EL SEMANARIO] How strong is the Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives?

[Bucardo] It is just as strong as the cooperatives are. The strongest part of UNAG is the cooperatives. We do not deny that they do have their difficulties.... If anything has been under attack in this country it is the cooperatives.

[EL SEMANARIO] Under attack how?

[Bucardo] Economically, militarily, by government officials, political parties, and local officials. Because the cooperatives are formed by the most dispossessed sectors and when united, they try to find answers to their problems. Much of our cooperative movement is the result of attacks on large estates, and now the estate owners are coming back wanting to destroy us; to do that they use the positions they have in the government, in the political parties, or their economic power. They only want us to develop ourselves so we will not be a bad example for the economic model. But we are working to democratize the economy, and so they persecute us.

[EL SEMANARIO] But some people say the cooperatives are no longer viable as a format for production, that

they were imposed during the revolution and are now disintegrating. What is your opinion of that statement?

[Bucardo] This struggle must continue. No one is forcing the campesinos to join cooperatives now. And even though they are being attacked militarily, the cooperatives are growing. Even members of the former resistance are creating cooperatives. According to the most recent census there were 2,000 cooperatives, but we were unable to complete that census because of the conflicts in rural areas. The cooperative model has not failed.

[EL SEMANARIO] How much land do the cooperatives represent?

[Bucardo] A little over 2 million manzanas of land.

[EL SEMANARIO] In what region have they been most heavily attacked?

[Bucardo] In the sixth region: Dalia, Rio Blanco, la Patriota, and Rancho Grande. They have murdered our people, about 180 in the past three years. There have been murders led by armed groups, very often instigated by former landowners who want to impose a process of agrarian regression. They also attack us by using the police against us and using decrees, laws, threats, military pressure, and financial instruments. Right now 500 cooperatives are being sued. This is all being done with the idea of forcing the campesino to sell his land so that the large landowners can establish land monopolies.

[EL SEMANARIO] Do you know how much has been sold so far?

[Bucardo] Between 150,000 and 200,000 manzanas of what was turned over by the Agrarian Reform.

[EL SEMANARIO] By the cooperatives?

[Bucardo] No, not just by the cooperatives but also by people who were demobilized from the resistance and from the Army.

[EL SEMANARIO] At times your people have said that lands purchased from the cooperatives were going to be invaded by the very same campesinos. Do you still hold to that principle?

[Bucardo] We continue to maintain that the lands turned over to the campesinos by the Agrarian Reform were done so at the cost of the campesinos' blood and toil. That is why we have held that it is unjust for landholders, in order to monopolize lands and convert them into large estates, to buy these lands at ridiculously low prices. We think those lands should be recovered and the state should support our position. Examples of this can be found in Rio Blanco and Matiguas. The Agrarian Reform was intended to solve an economic and social problem and not to try to expand large estates. That is why we say that lands that are being monopolized by big landowners should be taken back by landless campesinos.

[EL SEMANARIO] Recently a news report appeared saying that UNAG leaders are taking over and monopolizing lands. Is this true?

[Bucardo] Buying land is not just an ideological problem; it is also economic. Here there are people who buy lands cheaply, and we do not deny that some people of all sorts have been doing this. Sandinists, people from UNO [National Opposition Union], and from all parts of the political spectrum have done this. We do not think that is right. We are not opposed to sectors that do not have land buying it. What we are against is large quantities of land being accumulated.

[EL SEMANARIO] But has any departmental or national UNAG leader bought lands?

[Bucardo] Not as far as I know. There may be some who have bought a piece of land in order to survive, and not to accumulate land. We are against those who buy thousands of manzanas. If there is some UNAG leader who is amassing large amounts of land, then that needs to be looked into.

We are working to democratize the land and the economy. Every day the land should be shared by more producers and not concentrated in just a few hands.

[El SEMANARIO] What do the 2 million manzanas of lands in the hands of the cooperatives mean in terms of production?

[Bucardo] Many of those lands are used for a variety of purposes: farming, small livestock, cattle, grazing land, etc. It would be impossible to be more specific.

[EL SEMANARIO] But what is their economic weight in terms of production?

[Bucardo] In the most recent census, the cooperatives had 47,000 manzanas planted in coffee, 600,000 in agriculture, and about 400,000 head of cattle. We do not have very detailed information, but we do have a great deal of weight in economic terms.

[EL SEMANARIO] How does the start of 1993-94 agricultural season look?

[Bucardo] From 1991 until the present we have had many problems with our agricultural and livestock activity. We continue to have less and less access to financial resources. There has been an enormous decline. In the 1989-90 season we were farming 350,000 manzanas on credit. Last year it was down to about 23,000 or 26,000 manzanas. That is a brutal drop for small and medium-sized producers. Financing is constantly being cut very drastically. This year we got off to a very bad start. Right now, very few campesinos have managed to obtain credit. At best, the early crops may be successful with a good rainy season. The people have planted as best they can, very often by draining their own resources, by selling off their chickens and livestock, but they have not gotten any support from the state. That is why we are

putting pressure on the government so that we can sit down with all parties involved to consider this troubled situation.

[EL SEMANARIO] At the Dialogue Table the government pledged to increase agricultural production by 10 percent. How do you view this situation? Do you see any good prospects?

[Bucardo] We supported that decision and we asked that this growth not come at the expense of impoverishing the poorest even more and enriching the wealthiest people. We want it to have the result of supporting small and medium-sized producers. I must say that those accords are not what we would have liked, but we did get them to allocate more credit for small production, to dissociate debts so that will not be an obstacle to obtaining credit. In this context, if the resources come in time for the last planting, then the accords will have an impact on basic grains and on some export products.

[EL SEMANARIO] On this issue of credit, all the producers have complained about the banks' stringent requirements for making loans. Was this point raised in the talks with the government?

[Bucardo] Oh, yes. And the major obstacle is the banks' credit requirements. The number one issue is what the banks demand before they will make a loan. But the other obstacles could not be resolved, for example, getting lands legally registered, presenting payment terms, presenting a project, and some credit issues. I think it is feasible to resolve many of those issues by using a flexible approach.

[EL SEMANARIO] Why did you not apply pressure...?

[Bucardo] Well, they were very difficult discussions. You do not always get what you ask for. And we were interested in getting something for this season. We also think that the government might have dragged out the issue, and the best thing was to get something for the 1993-94 season. We know this does not solve the problem. Assuming that these agreements are carried out 100 percent, the major obstacle is that more than 60 percent of the producers will still have no access to credit, because the total area to be planted is about 800,000 manzanas, and barely 300,000 will probably be financed.

The only way would be to ease controls on the money supply to make more money available, but properly managed so that it would avoid superinflation.

[EL SEMANARIO] Might that be a point of the producers' battle plan?

[Bucardo] It is. The economic discussion is not over. The meeting with the government was just to work on the agricultural cycle. But the big issues are the economic problem, economic policies, creating jobs, investments, etc. So the dialogue does not end here.

[EL SEMANARIO] At the meeting were there any points found on which similar positions were taken?

[Bucardo] That was very interesting. On this issue of the agricultural season there was almost unanimous agreement. We reached agreement with UPANIC [Agricultural and Livestock Producers Union of Nicaragua], the Sandinists, and the Center Group. There was a dialogue with all the sectors working together and facing up to the government. The issue of lowering interest rates was brought up, although the government will not do that because it would affect its economic plan.

[EL SEMANARIO] What is your comment about UNO's absence from this session of the dialogue?

[Bucardo] I believe it showed contempt for the nation's economic problems to avoid helping to solve a problem that hurts the poorest people. It was a political mistake on their part.

[EL SEMANARIO] Recently the government signed an economic integration agreement with the other countries of Central America. Do you feel Nicaragua's farmers are able to compete with our neighbors?

[Bucardo] We are at a definite disadvantage. The most likely thing is that our lands will become grazing lands for the other Central American producers, and we will become a major pool of consumers for them. There is a danger that it might kill off our production forever.

Comments by UPANIC President

Gerardo Salinas, a coffee grower and president of UPANIC, considers the accords reached at the "agricultural table" positive but incomplete. Salinas' view is based on the fact that they were unable to persuade the government to reduce interest rates for long-term and mid-term loans, which at the present time are 18 and 24 percent, respectively.

A reduction in the high interest rates charged by state and private banks has historically been a demand of the agricultural sector, since "they make all crops unprofitable," the UPANIC president told us. The proposal that the COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] chambers and associations brought to the "table" was to lower long-term interest rates to 10 percent and short-term rates to 12 percent. However, that petition was totally rejected.

Salinas said he was pleased that "fortunately a commission to verify the accords was created." Salinas said creating this commission was very important—in his view—because the government lacks sufficient credibility, as on many other occasions it has not kept its promises.

Finally, he said that he is neither optimistic nor pessimistic. "I am a pragmatist. Reality will tell us if the agreements will actually be implemented or not."

Human Rights Leader Speaks on Amnesty, Media Censorship Bill

PA1407221493 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1030 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Lino Hernandez, executive secretary of the Nicaraguan Permanent Human Rights Commission, said the proposal to censor the media would violate Article 13 of the America Human Rights Convention, which forbids official controls on the media.

[Begin recording] [Hernandez] In principle, CPDH disapproves of the amnesty proposal, which only took over where the previous one left off. According to the proposal, which had been announced by Antonio Lacayo and supported by Joaquin Cuadra and Daniel Ortega, all armed groups should be given amnesty, including members of the Punitive Forces of the Left and the murderers of Arges Sequeira. President Violeta Chamorro says this proposal would not cover up war crimes or crimes against mankind. I must say, however, that her statement is a legal trick, because no amnesty can cover up genocide or crimes against mankind, therefore such a statement should not be included in the text of the proposal.

But we have an additional problem. Who will decide whether war crimes or crimes against mankind have been perpetrated? I think the idea is really to find a legal escape for the security services personnel, especially those in the Information Directorate, who formed the death squads. The proposal also broadens the scope of the impunity under which the Nicaraguan people have been living. In other words, the proposal demonstrates an inability to punish people who violate the law. We do not oppose the proposal for the sake of opposing it. We do say that this impunity leads to new crimes, the perpetrators of which are assured of impunity.

The proposal will be discussed in August when the Legislative Assembly, now in recess, is scheduled to meet. Meanwhile, even the possibility of such a proposal is an open door for crime, not war crimes but looting, torture, abuse, and any personal attacks. The perpetrators have been assured that they would be released by this amnesty, which has already been announced.

We believe the Nicaraguan land problem is not being addressed seriously or properly. An amnesty decree would not solve the problem of violence. We know the recompas leaders are linked to the Army, that the recontra phenomenon is a result of nonfulfillment of the agreements and a lack of personal safety for the Nicaraguan Resistance demobilized. In addition, the land problem has a social and economic backdrop.

We think that attempting to solve certain serious problems with legalities like an amnesty is tantamount to promoting impunity in the country.

[Unidentified reporter] We also want to know your opinion on a bill to limit freedom of speech in Nicaragua, especially radio broadcasts.

[Hernandez] This idea has been around for some time. There is no doubt that one of the achievements of this government, despite the many attacks on freedom of speech through attacks on the media and reporters, has been the absence of a law regulating freedom of expression and information. This bill, which we understand is [words indistinct] electronic aspect, seeks to establish Executive Branch control over independent media in certain situations.

This is clearly a violation of Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights. Clause 3 bans controls on radio frequencies and newsprint; that is, it bans official control over goods used by the media for the dissemination of ideas. It bans that sort of state control.

I think basic human rights are being violated. The key point of this situation is that some people are angered when they hear the truth in various media. They think having control of the state gives them the power to subdue the media.

We, of course, oppose any media controls. As Pedro Joaquin Chamorro used to say, and we agree, the best media law is the one that does not exist. [end recording]

Deputy Foreign Minister Discusses Border Issues

PA1307231193 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Jul 93 pp 1, 7

[Text] Jose Pallais Arana, 40, deputy foreign minister, attorney, and notary public, broached the complicated issue of the nation's territory and borders in this interview.

In a precise and orderly manner, Pallais presents the reader with a legal synopsis of the nation's current territorial aspects while painting a picture of the government's overall strategy to solve the problems Nicaragua has historically had in this regard.

The following is the interview with the deputy foreign minister.

[LA PRENSA] The latter part of Article 10 of the Nicaraguan Constitution states that "the specific limits of the national territory are fixed by laws and treaties." What laws and treaties define the nation's specific territorial borders beyond the ambiguous definition given in the first part of this same article?

[Pallais] It is very important to emphasize that Nicaragua has defined some borders with third states.

Nevertheless, there are areas where we have not made progress in delimitation because it is a very arduous task. The Constitution is making a specific reference to the Gomez-Bonilla Treaty of 1894 that established a mixed commission for the delimitation of the Honduran-Nicaraguan border.

The borders with Costa Rica are set out in the Canas-Jerez Treaty of 1858. The borders on the Caribbean and

Pacific sides are not delimited. Within the laws to which the Constitution refers, we can cite the law on the Continental Shelf and Adjacent Waters included in Decree No. 205 of 20 December 1979.

[LA PRENSA] Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador share the waters in the Gulf of Fonseca. What part of the Gulf belongs to each country, according to the laws and treaties?

[Pallais] That question deserves a good answer. The Mixed Commission on Borders Between Honduras and Nicaragua established that the border between the two nations in the Gulf of Fonseca extends from the center of the point between Punta San Jose and Isla del Tigre (approximately in the middle of the gulf).

From that point on, the waters have not been delimited. Nicaragua has said that if we close the mouth of the gulf, half of the waters and their flow into the Pacific belong to us.

One must recall that for the first time in history, the International Court of Justice recognized Nicaragua's right to participate in the border trial between Honduras and El Salvador, thus avoiding a delimitation made without Nicaragua's participation or to its detriment. The court ruled that the sentence did not adversely affect Nicaragua.

[LA PRENSA] What are the current border problems between Nicaragua and Costa Rica; Nicaragua and Honduras; and Nicaragua and Colombia? Could you describe the problems and indicate which laws and treaties or lack thereof created the problems?

[Pallais] There is an undefined border between Nicaragua and Costa Rica on the Pacific and Atlantic sides. The Cana-Jerez Treaty merely gave Nicaragua domain over the waters of the San Juan River and set out a dry land border. Both nations share the Salinas and San Juan del Norte Bays.

Costa Rica has navigation rights on the San Juan River solely for trade purposes. That does not include tourism.

Meanwhile, between Honduras and Nicaragua, our sovereignty extends north of the 15th parallel that Honduras claims as its border.

The fundamental reason for the differences between Nicaragua and Colombia are found in the Barcenas-Meneses-Esguerra Treaty. Nicaragua's official positions is that the treaty is null and void. In addition, based on that treaty, Colombia wants the Nicaraguan border to extend only as far as the 82d Meridian, thus depriving Nicaragua of an extensive maritime border that is rich with resources and potential.

Colombia wants—in addition to the San Andres and Providencia Islands and Serrano, Roncador, and Quitasueno cays— a large part of our continental shelf and seas. Colombia has signed treaties with Honduras and Costa Rica that are intended to exclude Nicaragua from the Caribbean Sea.

[LA PRENSA] So far we have a general view of Nicaragua's border problems. Could you tell us whether the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has an overall policy for solving the problems? What is that policy?

[Pallais] The Nicaraguan Government has created a permanent Office for Territorial Affairs and a corps of advisers in charge of undertaking an overall strategy for defending the national territory. The first stage of that policy, which will end in the next four or five months, consists of drafting a proposal for delimitation in all areas where there is no legally established border in accordance with treaties.

In the meantime, I think the Foreign Ministry's defense of Nicaragua's territorial rights and its marine resources in the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Fonseca, and the Pacific Ocean has been eloquent.

Nicaragua and Honduras have created a Mixed Commission on Maritime Affairs. We work very closely with an inter-institutional commission that defends Nicaragua's interests regarding the San Juan River and other important areas of our territory.

We have been developing a strategy to preserve Central America's territorial patrimony at the presidential summits.

[LA PRENSA] Knowing that the Honduran, Colombian, and Costa Rican authorities will necessarily and unavoidably counter your position, what risks is Nicaragua willing to take to prevail? Do the options include a military confrontation?

[Pallais] A military confrontation has been completely dismissed from our strategy as in principle we do not believe in military confrontation. We will resort to international laws with the principle of finding peaceful solutions to conflicts.

We believe we are right, and, therefore, we will use the possibilities offered us by international law. Nicaragua has made and will continue to make serious and well-founded statements in defense of its territory and maritime spaces.

Nicaragua's foreign policy has a pacifist nature. We had to draft the legal and philosophical bases for the concept of Central America as a "peaceful, free, democratic, and developing region," which implies the total proscription of war.

[LA PRENSA] As everyone knows, the current Nicaraguan Government is experiencing a devastating economic and political crisis. Do you think that under those circumstances your government would be willing to take the risks implied by your stance?

[Pallais] I believe that question is closely linked to the importance we give the territoriality issue. The question is really what risks we are willing to take in light of the magnitude of the territorial interests at stake.

For us, defending Nicaragua's territorial rights is linked to our economic survival and development. The resources at stake and the benefits for our people require a profound commitment from all Nicaraguans to defend our rights. Our defense must unite us as a nation in spite of our political differences.

We must bear in mind, however, that relations between the states have evolved a great deal. The fact that we have territorial disputes with another state does not affect our friendly and cooperative relations with them.

[LA PRENSA] Do you believe the border problems you have mentioned in this interview could be solved before the current government's term ends, or at least by the end of the century?

[Pallais] I think the solution to Nicaragua's territorial problems is a long-term affair. I want to assure you, however, that as we strengthen our positions on these topics we also increase possibilities for shortening the time until Nicaragua can enjoy safer borders and fully realize its maritime spaces in the Caribbean Sea, Pacific Ocean, and Gulf of Fonseca.

Panama

Ambassador Hinton on Money Laundering, Drug Trafficking

PA1407153793 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 13 Jul 93 p A1

[Report by Euclides Corro]

[Text] U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton said on 12 July that Panama has done very little against money laundering, commenting negatively about Panamanian bankers.

Although he admitted that Panama is doing well in the struggle against drugs, Ambassador Hinton pointed out that "very little has been done against money laundering." As an illustration, he said "Panamanian authorities have not arrested a single person for this crime" during the three and a half years he has been in the country.

Hinton told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA that "bankers saying they would rather not cooperate with the rest of the world by ratifying the Vienna Agreement" is worrisome.

The U.S. ambassador made these remarks during the 12 July inauguration of the Colon Free Zone's Antidrug Canine Unit, a project made possible thanks to U.S. Government financing.

"Panama, like every country in the hemisphere, should ratify the UN agreement because it is an international law and fundamental in the fight against drugs," he said.

He recommended that Panama "take measures to implement the agreement, but it must be ratified first, as more than 80 other countries have done already."

On 12 July, the Free Zone administration reinforced surveillance against drug trafficking in and out of this free trade zone by inaugurating a canine unit of six trained dogs brought from the United States.

Free Zone manager Jaime Ford Lara reported that this problem has been reduced to zero in the past few months and that the existence of a Technical Judicial Police office in this area has had much to do with it.

LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA spoke with Nasser Waked, president of the Association of Free Zone Leaseholders, who favored implementing strict measures against enterprises or businessmen who use the Free Zone as a springboard for drug trafficking. "We are the first to request that such companies be closed down forever," he said.

The Antidrug Canine Unit is located at France Field. After the inauguration, a special search demonstration was done in the area so guests and the local media could watch the dogs and their handlers in action.

Linares on Hinton's Remarks

PA1407021493 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Report by Alexandra Ciniglio]

[Text] The Panamanian foreign minister has criticized the attitude of the U.S. ambassador, who said very little is being done in Panama to fight money laundering.

According to U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton, no one has been arrested in our country for money laundering. Ambassador Hinton also said that bankers do not want the Vienna Convention to be ratified so Panama does not have to cooperate with the rest of the world.

[Begin recording] [Linares] I could not say to what degree it is true or not. I am uncomfortable with another statement made by Ambassador Hinton. He said the Vienna Convention on drug trafficking includes articles that the Banking Commission deems inappropriate.

The Foreign Ministry will conduct an in-depth analysis of the Vienna Convention. In fact, the ministry has already begun analyzing the Vienna Convention. After reading the Banking Commission's observations, I think some observations are insignificant. [end recording]

The foreign minister said it is possible that Panama has not done all that it can to fight drug trafficking. However, he criticized the United States for not approving the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, which is still pending ratification by the Senate.

Supreme Court Rules Against Arrest of U.S. Drug Suspect

PA1407185293 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 14 Jul 93 p 8c

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] The arrest of Colombian citizen Leon Alvarez Cuadro, whose extradition is being sought by the U.S. Government on alleged drug trafficking charges filed in New York City, was declared illegal by the Supreme Court of Justice.

The decision was adopted in a Supreme Court Penal Branch resolution that decided on an objection appeals motion filed by the law firm Reynolds, Chacon, and Arias.

On 17 December 1991 the U.S. Embassy in note No. 2078 requested the extradition of Alvarez Cuadro and Ivan Gonzalez, another Colombian citizen. By 30 January 1992, President Guillermo Endara issued Resolution No. 49, agreeing to the U.S. extradition petition.

Leon Alvarez Cuadro was arrested on October 1991 by National Customs Department agents as part of an investigation related to the sale of a vehicle owned by an opposition member of the legislature.

In May 1993, the Attorney General's Office decided to hear one of the objections to the extradition request filed by the Colombian's defense lawyers, who claimed that the U.S. Government request did not conform to Panamanian judicial precepts.

The Second Criminal Court claims that legal formalities were not observed in the case against Leon Cuadro, resulting in the court's decision to declare his arrest illegal.

Alvarez Cuadro's defense lawyers contend that the U.S. Embassy extradition request does not adequately identify their client since he was named as Jorge Munik Bacarat.

The other Colombian, Ivan Gonzalez, who is also wanted by the U.S. Government, managed to escape from El "Modelo" Prison last year.

In October 1992, Panama decided to reject the U.S. extradition request for Colombian citizen Ramon Terja Alvarez by claiming that he had drug trafficking charges pending in this country.

The extradition of Colombian citizens William Quinceno and Alfred Solarte was done in May. DEA agents transferred both men to the United States.

Colombia Submits Counterproposal to Exchange Agreement

PA1407225693 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 14 Jul 93 p 22

[Report by Roberto Rolando Rodriguez]

[Text] Juan Chevalier, Panamanian Government and justice minister, said Colombia has submitted a draft treaty for legal assistance and information exchange on drugs to Panama. Chevalier was on a three-day tour of Colombia during a meeting of the Neighborhood Commission.

Chevalier said Panama presented Colombia with a draft agreement for efficient coordination of the counternarcotics effort. He said the document also proposed an exchange of criminals serving jail terms.

The Colombian Government, however, has presented a new draft, which is being interpreted as a counterproposal. The Colombian proposal establishes the guidelines of the Colombian position on the fight against international drug trafficking in that South American country, where there is a head-on collision with the main drug lords.

The Panamanian official hopes the document presented by Colombia will be analyzed soon and discussed bilaterally so an agreement can be reached for an exchange of information and legal assistance similar to the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty recently signed by Panama and the United States.

Gabriel De Vega, director of the National Drug Directorate of Colombia, told EL SIGLO weeks ago that the Colombian efforts against the drug lords are useless as long as drug trafficking "continues to gain ground" in the neighboring countries.

According to diplomatic observers, Colombia's counterproposal is being interpreted as a lack of faith in the effectiveness of Panamanian officials in repressing international drug trafficking.

President Endara's administration has asserted that over the last few months the counternarcotics effort has yielded good results in terms of drug seizures and arrests of drug traffickers of various nationalities.

In addition, efforts are under way within the Neighborhood Commission, which is made up of high-ranking government officials, businessmen, and nongovernmental organizations from Panama and Colombia, to legalize over 25,000 illegal aliens from Colombia whose activities are compatible with Panamanian laws, good behavior, and society.

Argentina

Menem Leaves for Third Ibero-American Summit

PY1407202093 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1851 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Jul (NA)—President Carlos Menem left at 1545 for Salvador, Bahia, on board the Tango-01 aircraft that left from the military base at Jorge Newberry Metropolitan Airport.

Menem, who will participate in the Third Ibero-American Summit in Salvador, is accompanied on board the presidential aircraft by Labor Minister Enrique Rodriguez and Health and Social Action Minister Alberto Mazza.

Menem Reaffirms Support for Economy Minister Cavallo

PY1507030793 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Jul 93 p 3

[Excerpt] (DYN)—Should Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo decide to leave his current job to move on to politics, or for any other reason, then he would be replaced by an economist from the Fundacion Mediterranea, President Carlos Menem said yesterday.

"In that team there are a lot of economists who are truly exceptional," Menem told reporters.

The Fundacion Mediterranea is a private economic research group which was founded by Cavallo and others in Cordoba in 1977.

However, Menem said he didn't consider it likely that Cavallo would be leaving and, in fact, confirmed that the minister would be continuing in his post.

"Cavallo will continue," he emphasized, "but should something happen, Carlos Menem will continue with this plan no matter who is economy minister," the president said. [passage omitted]

Navy Chief of Staff Molina Pico Installed

PY1407181393 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2018 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jul (NA)—Vice Admiral Enrique Molina Pico, the brand-new Navy chief of staff, today asked the Defense and Economy Ministries to hold "continuous talks" to solve the Navy's budget and operational problems.

During a ceremony today at the "Libertad" building [Navy headquarters], Molina Pico assumed his duties, replacing Admiral Jorge Ferrer. Molina Pico emphasized the "great effort" carried out by Navy personnel to keep the Navy operational.

The new Navy chief of staff stated: "This is one of the problems to be solved," although he made it clear that he is unaware of "an immediate solution."

He said that "continuous talks" between the Defense and Economy Ministries will serve "to place the Navy at the appropriate level" within our country's military structure.

He added that the Navy's general guidelines "involve the subordination of military power to political power."

Those present at the ceremony included Defense Minister Oscar Camilion; General Martin Balza, the Army chief of staff; Brigadier Jose Julia, the Air Force chief of staff; General Mario Candido Diaz, the Armed Forces joint chief of staff; Border Police Commander General Timar Musumeci; and Brigadier Juan Paulik, the Air Force chief of staff-designate.

Also present were former Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez, former Defense Minister Humberto Romero, former Navy Chief of Staff Emilio Massera, and former Navy Chief of Staff Jorge Isaac Anaya. Massera and Anaya discharged from their duties during the military regime.

Admiral Jorge Ferrer, the outgoing Navy chief of staff, emphasized the "permanent effectiveness of the institutions when they—like the Argentine Navy—firmly, singularly, and strongly endure based on the indestructible foundations of the Constitution."

In his farewell speech, Ferrer stated: "The Navy, despite confronting important circumstantial challenges of this time, has clearly established its strategic beliefs."

In conclusion, Ferrer emphasized that sending ships to the Persian Gulf represents a "challenge and a turning point in our country's history."

Bolivia

President Paz Departs for Ibero-American Summit

PY1407194193 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1415 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] President Paz departed today at 0810 for Salvador, Bahia, to attend the Third Ibero-American Summit of presidents. A group of ministers, military commanders, and diplomats were present at the El Alto airport to bid him farewell. The president first reviewed the troops of the Bolivian Colorados Escort Regiment. Before departing he spoke to journalists about the subjects he will discuss during the summit in Brazil.

[Begin recording] [Paz, in progress] ...of direct diplomacy policy which is demonstrating very concrete results like the one that will be expressed during this third summit. We said it in the first summit in Guadalajara, in the second one in Madrid and now we will say it in Salvador, Bahia. The only project or program that has practically come into effect and that has yielded results

from these three summits is the Bolivian proposal I myself suggested to create a fund for the development for Latin American and Caribbean indigenous people.

This is of great concern for this third summit, whose main subject will be the Agenda for Development, especially social development. I do not think that we can find a better example of an economic, social, and cultural development program for the most oppressed classes of our continent than the Bolivian suggestion to create a development fund for indigenous people.

Today, I, and the president of this fund, signed an agreement to install the fund's headquarters in La Paz, which from now on will be the capital of this fund for all of Latin America. Three countries—Bolivia, Peru, and Mexico—have ratified this agreement which goes into effect today. I think this is a good example of the so-called direct diplomacy.

I am attending this summit with a lot of optimism because, probably, Bolivia is the country attending this Ibero-American Summit with the most to show: with a streamlined economy, and mainly, with a social program like the Bolivian social strategy, which includes a 10-year action plan for women and children, a program of struggle against poverty, and a demonstration of our experience to all of Ibero-America.

[Unidentified reporter] What can you say about the difficulties we have gone through lately?

[Paz] I do not want to talk about a different subject right now. I think that what comes first is first. Today we will commemorate a great Bolivian victory in Salvador, so I think that that is what must be analyzed. You can address any foreign service issue to the foreign secretary, who is right there.

[Reporter] Will you meet with any president in Salvador or is there no time?

[Paz] I will meet with presidents this afternoon. In the evening I will meet the Bolivian residents in Salvador, who number about 100. Tomorrow morning I will speak with journalists—interviews have been requested by several international networks. I must also hold meetings, which have already been scheduled, with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, King Juan Carlos of Spain, President Carlos Menem of Argentina—with whom we have very concrete business matters to discuss—Brazilian President Itamar Franco, Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, and also with Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, with whom we will discuss the final details of my visit to Peru and the international bid scheduled for 30 July for the construction of Ilo port. That is more or less my agenda, which is very crowded. This afternoon I will attend the opening of the conference, and I intend to return to Bolivia tomorrow at about 2200 to attend the [word indistinct] festivity on 16 July.

[Question] [Indistinct]

[Paz] I would say that Bolivia is one of the less developed countries in that field. But at the same time it is the country that has made the fastest progress in the past four years in the struggle against poverty. That is, the poverty that has prevailed for centuries in our country now finds us fighting it more effectively.

The infant mortality rate, the illiteracy rate, and the number of people without electricity and basic sanitary services have dropped considerably. Although our rates are not the highest in Latin America, they are the ones that lately have been improving fastest in the region. Bolivia, which is carrying out a struggle against poverty, can show at the summit an example like the (Onamfa) program. There is no other program in Latin America similar to the (Onamfa), even though this program has not been sufficiently acknowledged domestically. You may look for a similar program in the continent and you will not find it. This is something we can proudly present as an effort of the Bolivian people. Then, for example, there is the national program for women we are implementing in Bolivia. There is no other similar program in Latin America. There also is no plan in Latin America similar to our PYDIS [Coca Crop Substitution and Development Plan].

Therefore, Bolivia will attend the summit poor but honorable, and it will mainly demonstrate that we are overcoming our historical level of poverty faster, at a quicker pace, than other countries.

[Question] [Indistinct]

[Paz] I want to congratulate all Bolivian people through the national media. I want to tell them that the Bolivian presence abroad is part of a very important task we Bolivians must undertake. Every time Bolivia participates in an international meeting, the country benefits from many, many advantages. I thank you for your journalistic coverage at this time in the morning and the sacrifice it implies. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Views Corruption Case

PY1407185393 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Within the investigations into the activities of Agustin Saavedra Weise, the former Bolivian ambassador to Argentina, the Bolivian Foreign Ministry yesterday presented evidence that not only exposes shady deals involving vehicles, but also Saavedra Weise's illegal activities for certain people for his own benefit.

During a news conference yesterday noon, Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean Abaroa pointed out that former Ambassador Saavedra Weise, bestowing on himself undue powers, registered people—on many occasions, embassy officials living in Argentina—in the embassy's records, without the authorization of the president of the Republic, thus allowing them to import vehicles duty-free. An example of this is the case of his sister-in-law, Maria Zambrana de Siqueira, who lives in that country.

The documents supplied to journalists contain a long list of people and officials who were registered by Saavedra Weise and who were able to import brand-new vehicles.

[Begin MacLean recording] The problem does not involve (?Argentina). The problem involves our Foreign Ministry and our embassy in Argentina. Our ambassador registered his relatives, his employees, to benefit him in the importation of vehicles and other [words indistinct] without the Bolivian Foreign Ministry's authorization, [words indistinct] abuse of passports. We are also investigating this because they have been [passage indistinct].

With much [words indistinct], Ambassador Saavedra Weise violated the passport [words indistinct]. And these passports are travel documents that are used for [words indistinct].

We are supplying (?the names) of about 105 officials involved, who were wrongly registered and (?benefited from) exemptions. [end recording]

The preliminary list, supplied to the media, includes the following people who were favored by former Ambassador Saavedra Weise [names indistinct].

Coca Growers Say Alternative Development Program Failure

PY1407231793 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] In Cochabamba, coca growers say the alternative development program has failed because repression against coca growers has delayed this program. Coca growers leader Evo Morales says this may be noticed because European and U.S. financial resources have not benefited the peasants.

The coca growers announced that during the next congressional period they will ask congressmen to review Law No. 1008 that assigns priority to drug enforcement and does not attach the required importance to alternative development.

Brazil

President Moves Government to Naval Base for Summit

PY1407150393 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] For at least 10 hours tomorrow the Brazilian Government will be run from a naval base in Salvador. During the Ibero-American Summit, President Itamar Franco will be located with his ministers at the Aratu Naval Base in Salvador.

President Franco refused to stay at Ondina Palace, offered by Bahia Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes. He will stay at the Enseada das Lages Hotel on Paciencia Hill, 50 meters from [Brazilian folk singer] Caetano Veloso's house.

Franco Forbids Utility Rate Hikes According to Inflation

PY1407185693 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] The government has cut $2.5 billion from the state companies' budget and it has prohibited the readjustment of public utility rates to match inflation.

The decision is part of the government plan to control public expenses. Before increasing the utility rates—like electricity or fuel prices—public companies will now have to justify any increase.

Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso explains what was decided at the last meeting.

[Begin Cardoso recording] Public utility rates cannot be calculated simply based on the current expenses of the companies plus an inflation estimate. We are changing this philosophy. Public utility rates must consider investments, the payroll, and evidently, the company's productivity. Utility rate should be based on this equation. Just as it is said that salaries cannot 100 percent follow inflation, the same applies to utility rates. If they follow inflation we will never have an effective policy to curb inflation. [end recording]

Thank you, minister. So, President Itamar Franco has ordered a cut in expenses and perquisites. Any public company that does not make a profit will be extinguished. The current debt of public companies surpasses $100 million [as heard].

Federal Police Grant Truce to Minister To Solve Problems

PY1407150793 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Federal Police superintendents decided to grant a 30-day truce to Justice Minister Mauricio Correa so as to allow the government to solve the federal police problems during that period.

The superintendents who were ready to tender their resignations also agreed to participate in a meeting next week with Wilson Romao, the new Federal Police Director General. The meeting with Minister Correa lasted more than eight hours.

* Armed Forces Spared Further Budget Cuts

93SM0329E Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 29 Jun 93 p 5

[Article by Brasilia correspondent Claudia Safatle]

[Text] With a Cr$227.58 trillion [cruzeiro] cut in the federal government investments that had been programmed in the National Budget (OGU), plus a request for a supplementary credit of Cr$473 billion—made available by a revenue surplus—Secretary of Budget and

Finance (SOF) Aurelio Nono Valenca expects to have addressed a good part of the "unrealistic content" in this year's budget.

The administration is sending a bill to the National Congress today, determining where the $4.1 billion cuts in investments will be made. Proceeds from the cuts, plus the approximately $8.5 billion of surplus revenue (the result of an inflation rate that proved to be much higher than forecast by the OGU), will be used to meet the payroll, fund social security and health, and boost the appropriations for the school lunch program and scholarships. The exchange rate used for the conversion was 55,400.00 cruzeiros to the dollar, the same rate as used in the budget. By adding the $4.1 billion in investment spending cuts—which hit the ministries of regional integration, social welfare, and health particularly hard—to the inflation-caused corrosion of the cruzeiros allocated to each federal government agency in the budget, total spending cuts will, according to Nono, add up to the $6 billion called for in the government's economic program.

Five ministries will absorb 84.14 percent of the cuts proposed in the Executive Branch bill. They are: Social Welfare, where investments will be cut by about half, i.e., by Cr$73.6 trillion; Regional Integration, Cr$51.9 trillion; Transportation, Cr$31.79 trillion (preserving, however, the appropriations for highway maintenance and conversation [as published]); Education, with a cut of Cr$25.15 trillion; and Cr$29.03 trillion at the Ministry of Health (see table).

Those cuts represent funds that will be shifted around to cover other expenses. For example, the Ministry of Health loses Cr$29 trillion in capital spending, but will pick up an additional Cr$80 billion to cover current expenses. The Ministry of Education suffered a cut, but those funds will be returned to it for payment of salaries (for example, Cr$6 trillion was trimmed from the appropriations for the Integrated Centers for Assistance to Children).

Cuts Proposed by the Executive Branch

AGENCY	MILLION CRUZEIROS
Office of the President	9,885
Office of the Vice President	2,911
Federal Administration Secretariat	7,076
Strategic Affairs Secretariat	423,529
Planning Secretariat	1,252
Ministry of Agriculture	5,535,590
Ministry of Social Welfare	73,605,114
Ministry of Science and Technology	1,643,932
Ministry of Finance	191,354
Ministry of Education	25,155,903
Ministry of Industry and Commerce	172,769
Ministry of Justice	1,596,972
Ministry of Mines & Energy	2,597,854
Ministry of Social Security	15,644
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	24,820
Ministry of Health	29,034,364
Ministry of Labor	143,892
Ministry of Transportation	31,798,410
Ministry of Communications	270,320
Ministry of Culture	226,278
Ministry of Regional Integration	51,904,543
Ministry of the Environment	581,834
Financial Charges, Federal Government	614,986
Transfers to states and the Federal District	1,004,152
Official credit transactions	1,020,319
Total	227,583,703

Source: Budget and Finance Secretariat (SOF)

The Armed Forces were spared this reshuffling of funds "because of the insufficiency of the sums" allotted in the budget law, was the opinion expressed by the SOF secretary. That insufficiency of funds, coupled with the corrosive effects of inflation on the appropriations granted in cruzeiros in the budget, will be enough to force the military ministers to postpone, suspend, or slow down work on some projects that are considered important, such as: the computerized interconnection of operations centers in the military command and control system; and completion of some land and space segments of the military satellite communications system (in Brasilia, Curitiba, and Rio de Janeiro). This could create problems during the second generation of Embratel's [Brazilian Telecommunications Company] Brasilsat satellite.

In addition, the SOF mentioned the likelihood of "nonpayment of contracted installments on the AM-X, with consequent increases in its financial cost"; delays in the timetable for construction of the Satellite Launch Tower; and reduction in Air Force operations and a slowdown in the pace of operations of the flight protection and air traffic control systems.

The criteria used in developing the proposal for investment spending cuts were: identical percentage reductions should be imposed on spending for projects proposed by legislators and the Executive; and each minister will work out the details of the cuts suffered by his budget. Reductions in spending that affect amendments proposed by legislators will take place in two stages: in the bill that goes to Congress today and later, within an interval to be stipulated by the Congress itself, the authors of the amendments are to draft a proposal for a supplementary credit, containing a reallocation of funds.

Since part of the funds from Source 188—which represents the earnings on the Treasury's cash on hand at the Central Bank, a total of $3.2 billion—were used in the budget to finance investment programs, those funds will now be used to pay government employee salaries. As a last resort, money would have to be printed to meet the payroll.

According to Rio reporter Mauro Antonio Monteiro, Minister of Planning Alexis Stepanenko will propose next week that the Board of State Enterprise Control, which is part of Seplan [Secretariat of Planning and Coordination of the Presidency of the Republic] be converted to an Executive Secretariat.

* Human Rights Study Reveals Government Neglect

93SM0329A Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Jun 93 p 31 (General Section)

[Article by Carlos Rydle]

[Text] Of a total of 923 cases of human rights violations that occurred between 1976 and 1991 in rural areas in Brazil, only 515 (55.7 percent) came to the attention of the state at the time. Of the offenses reported, only 291 (31.5 percent of the total) were processed in any way, and not always satisfactorily. Any penalties imposed fell proportionately more frequently on farm workers and squatters, thus favoring landowners and hired gunmen. These data appear in a study made by the Unit for Studies of Violence (NEV) at the University of Sao Paulo (USP).

Profile of Impunity

Cases of rural violence studied	923
Number resulting in murder	661
Never came to the attention of government bodies	408
Received some sort of attention	291

By being absent, neglectful, and conniving, government authorities at all levels played a key role in the past two decades in transforming the "state of law" into a mere mirage. That is the crux of the conclusions reached by the report the NEV is preparing on rural violence in Brazil.

The project was started in 1991 under an agreement signed with the Office of Attorney General of the Republic. The NEV began organizing data on cases of human rights violations that had been inventoried during the attorney general's investigation No. 3.662/91. Albeit belatedly, the process seeks to determine responsibilities for several kinds of crimes.

Anatomy

The analysis by the NEV team covered some 5,000 documents issued by both official organs and nongovernmental entities. The stack of papers represents 25 percent of the material that had been gathered by the federal Office of Government Attorney. As a result, a data bank was created that contains profiles of victims and aggressors, causes and types of violations. This is the anatomy of a plot that caused the death of 46 people in Brazil, in 1992 alone—a conflict whose center of dispute points to the land itself.

The highlight of the survey, however, is the performance of the government. "Even when restricted to a sample of cases, it is unusual for a study to tackle that aspect," points out sociologist Anamaria Schindler, supervisor of the project at NEV.

Chico Mendes

The 923 cases of violence investigated include 661 murders, 68 of them preceded by threats. Of 79 petitions for police protection, only 48 were heeded (see chart), which did not necessarily mean that the target of the threats was safe, as in the case of union activist and ecologist Chico Mendes, killed in Acre in 1988.

The requests for extraordinary measures—most often forwarded by nongovernmental entities—fell into a void. Of the 196 requests sent to the Ministry of Justice, some sort of reaction from that agency was confirmed in only 48 cases. The report also shows that although they were sued, the now-extinct Ministry of Agrarian Reform and Development (Mirad) and the also extinct Executive Group of the Lands of Araguaia-Tocantins (Getat) never attempted to take a stand.

Ms. Schindler said that another aggravating factor is that "very often the inquiry does not report what happened to most of the requests." Even so, the survey found that only 16 percent of the crimes resulted in police investigations. Court proceedings were instituted in 9.4 percent of all cases.

The report also indicates that farm workers, squatters, and tractor operators represent 3.9 percent of the perpetrators of the crimes, but account for 13.8 percent of the total court proceedings instituted. Landowners, hired gunmen, "gatos" (labor recruiters) and construction contractors are cited as sources in 61 percent of the offenses. But court cases were brought against persons in those occupational categories only 35 percent of the time.

Action By the State

What the federal and state governments did about the charges

TYPE OF REQUEST	NUMBER OF CASES	CASES IN WHICH ACTION TAKEN
Police protection (fear for life)	9	48
Investigation of circumstances	8	1
Prompt court action	10	None
Indemnification for slave labor	7	1
Prison/conviction	18	4
Punishment of the guilty parties	6	None
Other requests	386	237

Total	515	291
AGENCIES SUED	NUMBER OF REQUESTS	SUITS ANSWERED
Ministry of Justice	196	144
Office of Government Attorney	78	75
Police Stations	39	14
State Judiciary	30	16
Office of the President of Brazil	28	6
Federal Police	27	3
Public Safety Secretariat/Civil Police	17	8
State governments	14	None
Federal Supreme Court	10	10
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	7	7
Other	69	6
Total	515	291

Source: Unit for Studies of Violence

Chile

U.S. Suffered 'Setback' Following Attack on Iraq

PY1407154393 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 29 Jun 93 p 3

[Editorial: "Attack Against Iraq"]

[Text] The surprise attack against Iraq by the United States, in retaliation for an alleged plot to murder former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait last April, casts a black shadow on the new international order.

The fact that the only remaining superpower has decided, months later, to punish a country for an attack that did not take place, a country that is decimated by hunger and poverty, creates serious doubts about the morals of this new order. It is really incredible to carry out such an attack, killing innocent civilians, in the name of an event that hardly conceals President Bill Clinton's desire to revive his deteriorating image.

The incident is extremely worrisome because the reasons alleged by the U.S. President and most of the countries that supported the United States in the Gulf War are not convincing.

No one, to speak the truth, can support any kind of terrorism. And much less if it is state terrorism, which is what has been argued. But it is also logical that no one should support sanctions based on simple conjectures.

This episode, which seriously attacks the norms and values of the international community, also places in check the basic philosophy of the United Nations. The surprise attack against Baghdad is very different from the action taken by the United States and its allies through Resolution No. 678, which authorizes the use of all means to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

It is regrettable that internal policy reasons should have led a country, which is controlling the international scene without any counterbalance, to take this step. This aggression shows that the post-Cold War world is perhaps much more dangerous than that of the times of bipolar antagonism.

The reactions of the people, as observed when annoyed crowds yelling "Allah Akbar" (God is great) in demand for revenge, confirm what is being said by analysts who, with intelligence and brilliance, have indicated that future conflicts will be of religious origin.

However, it must be pointed out that the most regrettable part of this episode was to verify that the U.S. leadership has suffered a serious setback. The peaceful and stable world which everyone predicted at the end of the cold war no longer exists. The decisions adopted by the great world powers to restrict access to their markets and this surprise attack demonstrate very well that the existing gap between the rich North and the pauperized South will continue to exist for a long time. Which, to speak the truth, is regrettable.

Palestinian Congress Declaration Upholds Intifadah

PY1407233793 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 28 Jun 93 p C9

[Text] The Third Congress of Palestinian Organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean (COPLAC) has voiced the support of its communities for the way Palestinian leaders have conducted the peace-seeking negotiations in the Middle East.

The Santiago Declaration, containing the conclusions of the event, which ended yesterday, reasserts "full support for the Palestine negotiations in the difficult peace-seeking process and the unwavering support to the Palestinian right to self-defense in the occupied territories, represented by the glorious 'Intifadah.'"

Moreover, the COPLAC urges the international community "to end the Israeli occupation of Arab and Palestinian territories and the flagrant Israeli violation of Palestinian human rights in these territories by

deporting people, confiscating land, establishing settlements, and closing schools."

The COPLAC also reiterated its recognition of the PLO as the single and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and its right to participate in the negotiations currently being conducted by Yasir 'Arafat.

Moreover, it declares "its full support for the just struggle of the Arab Palestine people to recover their inalienable right to return, under self-determination, to install an independent and sovereign state."

Yamil Nazzal, president of the Palestine Federation of Chile, noted "the support granted by the Chilean people in recognizing the PLO office. It is not everything, but it is the least we expect and it represents an important step toward the success of the bilateral relations between our two countries. We hope that in the near future the Chilean Government and people also will recognize the Palestine state."

Nazzal voiced his satisfaction over the establishment during the congress of a Palestinian-Chilean bilateral commission. "We are proud of this because it shows that the entire Chilean nation upholds the Palestinian cause."

When asked about the U.S. attack on Iraq, Nazzal said: "An attack is not the way civilized people behave. Any attack that causes destruction or death is unnecessary. War leads nowhere, problems must be settled through negotiation."

He asserted: "During our congress we united the continent's efforts with our Palestinian organizations so that we may all strive and grant the Palestinian people the right for democracy and the self-determination of their people."

Chamber of Deputies Speaker Resigns

PY1507021193 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Report by Javier Galaz from the Congress building in Valparaiso]

[Text] Chamber of Deputies President Jose Antonio Viera-Gallo, Socialist Party [PS], today tendered his resignation in compliance with the decision by the Socialist Party Political Committee to hand over the presidency to the Party for Democracy [PPD]. Socialist bloc leader Carlos Smok handed Viera-Gallo's letter of resignation to the Chamber of Deputies secretary. Smok explained that the Chamber of Deputies presidency was handed over to the PPD as a gesture that attests to the concerted work undertaken by both parties. He said:

[Begin recording] By virtue of an agreement reached by the Chamber of Deputies president and the Socialist Party bloc, Viera-Gallo's resignation has taken effect as of today. Now elections will have to be held to designate a new president, which, as you know, are held within the framework of a governability agreement between the Coalition for Parties for Democracy and the Independent Democratic Union that has been in force since February 1990. [end recording]

Smok conceded that there was tension within the PS and the PPD over the delay in handing over the chamber presidency due to objections by PS deputies, but that this did not affect the good relations existing between the parties. He added that the election of the new Chamber of Deputies president will not take place until the beginning of August pursuant to the prescribed deadlines.

According to the aforementioned agreement, the next Chamber of Deputies president will be Jorge Molina from the PPD.

Interior Ministry Issues Expulsion Order for Escobar

PY1407143393 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Speakers identified by screen captions]

[Text] The Chilean Government has taken another step to make the Escobars leave the country. The Interior Ministry has issued a decree ordering the expulsion of the Escobars. Interior Under Secretary Belisario Velazco said:

[Begin recording] This decree was sent to the Office of the Comptroller General, which recorded this expulsion in its registry. The National Directorate of Investigations is currently notifying Mr. Escobar and his family of the expulsion decreee ordered by the government. This expulsion will take effect once the court of appeals issues a writ of execution of the judgment.

The Escobars' attorney Neumann announced that he will appeal to the Supreme Court and reacted negatively when he leard about the Interior Ministry resolution.

[Begin recording] [Neumann] This government, which boasts so much about being a government that respects the law, as they contend that they were the ones that brought the rule of law to this country—as if it had not existed before—are themselves violating the law they say they protect.

[Unidentified reporter] What do you intend to do now?

[Neumann] Well, if it is true that the government has made that decision, I will file an appeal to the Supreme Court. I have 24 hours to do this following the official notification. This suspends the expulsion for five days. So I will not allow the government the pleasure of expelling him now; they will only be able to do so when the Supreme Court has ruled on my appeal. [end recording]

Ecological Group Supports Reitze's Presidential Candidacy

PY1407181693 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] The Ecologist Movement Party [Partido Movimiento Ecologista] has announced its support for the presidential candidacy of Cristian Reitze and the participation in a common legislative ticket with the Humanist-Green Alliance under the name of New Left [Nueva Izquierda].

Flavio Neto, president of the Ecologist Movement Party, which has registered as a legal political party in the First, Second, and Third Regions, asserted that Reitze is the only logical representative of the leftist sector that aspires to significant changes in the country.

Jose Gabriel Ferez, coordinator of the New Left, said that the common legislative ticket will be legally represented by the Humanist-Green Alliance and that the Ecologist Movement Party will bring together independents and former members of several leftist parties.

Ferez added that they will register the New Left ticket at the Electoral Service today and that they hope to have candidates for the Chamber of Deputies in 40 districts and for the Senate in four of the jurisdictions in dispute.

Colombia

EL TIEMPO Editorial on G-7 Summit Agreement

PA1407140293 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Jul 93 p 2A

[Editorial: "A Good Start in Tokyo"]

[Text] The agreement in principle signed in Tokyo is news we did not expect, particularly so soon. The question Colombians now ask is to what extent do issues being discussed by the Group of 7 [G-7] affect our trade. Colombia must wait until the second round of GATT meetings to start—based on what is being perfected as a possible agreement among underdeveloped nations—discussions concerning import and export regulations for GATT member countries. It is not wise to harbor too many hopes for the time being, although we may think the floodgates have been opened to raise many tariffs. Obviously, our products will be sent abroad and other products will arrive on our market to increase the open market policy.

National industries that can sell their products in other markets must begin to make their own favorable conditions so they may have a chance of competing in terms of quality, price, and other aspects in the exchange battle, which will undoubtedly increase in a noticeable way. It is truly a challenge, but the world is more and more full of challenges in every type of activity: Technological, commercial, political—even the interventionism proposed by some international groups. This has become the common formula to solve internal conflicts that threaten international security.

World trade is still dominated by two countries: The United States and Japan. Naturally, this has resulted in controversies at the Tokyo meeting but, regardless of the outcome, we must accept the fact that these powers have in their hands not only the destiny of their own citizens but also that of other countries' citizens. Whatever agreements or disagreements they reach will have obvious repercussions. That is why the world views with expectation the Tokyo meeting, which is taking giant steps toward the implementation of a new worldwide commercial exchange doctrine. Colombia's future, as well as that of Latin America, Europe, and Asia, will feel the influence of the decisions adopted at the G-7 meeting.

May the god of understanding and kindness enlighten the people who negotiate agreements that, without exaggeration, may be termed very important. These agreements may either be beneficial or, quite the contrary, very detrimental to the Third World.

Gaviria Discusses Church, Guerrillas

PA1507000993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Focusing on the topic of social development as the key issue for the discussions, President Cesar Gaviria left for the Ibero-American Summit this morning.

Shortly before his departure, the president talked about the church criticism of the government peace policy. Here we have the statements by President Gaviria and by Monsignor Dario Castrillon:

[Begin Gaviria recording] We cannot legitimize violence and simply give the guerrillas a chance to play a leading political role. We cannot allow agreements to be reached with the guerrillas through their intimidation, simply to coexist with them.

With regard to Msgr. Castrillon, if he contacts them, he is doing so without any authorization. He is doing that as a private person.

However, if we eventually establish a dialogue with these groups, it is to make peace. [end recording]

To President Gaviria's statements, Msgr. Castrillon replied:

[Begin Castrillon recording] Rather than a mediation, it would be a link because I do not represent the interests of those persons. I am only establishing a link. I am only doing pastoral work. There are parishes here where I can already feel the guerrilla presence. Guerrillas are parishioners. This does not mean that I have contact with them. This means that [words indistinct] permanent contact [words indistinct] police post in my archdiocese

because it is very big. [words indistinct] the soldiers go but when they go in big groups [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Finally, Msgr. Castrillon said that if he has to [word indistinct] to have contacts with the guerrillas who want to [word indistinct] he will do so, assuming the risks this implies.

* Former Guerrilla Discusses FARC Activities

93WR0274Z Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Jun 93 p 9A

[Interview with a former FARC guerrilla turned DAS collaborator by Miller Rubio; place and date not given; first three paragraphs are EL TIEMPO editorial introduction]

[Text] The secretariat of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) has offered 100 million Colombian pesos to whoever kills him. They are hunting him because, after serving for eight years in the ranks of the FARC, he knows secrets of that organization which have never been revealed up to now.

His reports have made it possible to discover the economic inroads which the guerrilla organization has made in Colombian industry and the participation of Cuban and Nicaraguan mercenaries in FARC attacks.

He began in 1984 as an ordinary guerrilla and ended up as one of the most trusted supporters of Manuel Marulanda Velez, also known as "Teofilo." A special program has been set up for his protection, and he has been given a new identity by the Administrative Department of Security (DAS).

[Rubio] When did you join the FARC?

[Guerrilla] I entered the FARC guerrilla organization after 1984 and began by going through political and military training. A guerrilla in this organization receives daily training in Marxist-Leninist ideology. The PC [Communist Party] takes part in FARC activities in the urban and rural areas of the various regions of the country.

The PC establishes zonal committees at the political level and appoints their leaders, who are responsible for political work in the country areas. At the same time, it handles member training within the various fronts of the FARC.

[Rubio] Where does the FARC's military equipment come into Colombia?

[Guerrilla] A special organization has been set up which maintains relations with Nicaragua, Cuba, the former Soviet Union, and Portugal. That special commission is controlled by Andres Paris, who had training in the USSR and is the husband of Betty, the daughter of Jacobo Arenas.

He came on the scene and entered the organization directly as a member of the Central Committee of the FARC, with very senior responsibilities. He began giving political training in the Armando Gonzalez Acosta school in the secretariat.

The purchase of arms is handled in a political way. They transfer money which the guerrilla group has obtained from the narcotics traffic, kidnappings, extortion, elections, and all of that.

Arms are obtained from Portugal. For example, to give a specific case, they obtained G-3 rifles and other weapons for the FARC from a ship whose nationality I do not exactly recall.

I learned of a trail set up in the Duda area, on the Duda River in the Department of Meta. I provided security on that trail. There, at least every three days or once a week, weapons came from Nicaragua, transported by a small aircraft from Cuba.

On one occasion about 25 of us men delivered weapons to the secretariat. The weapons were in boxes which weighed about 50 pounds. Each of the boxes we carried had between three and four rifles in them.

I know of arms which entered Colombia through Puerto Carreno. The first shipment took place in about 1985. Fronts 39 and 16 operated there, under the command of a guerrilla named "John."

[Rubio] What other areas did the FARC use for receiving arms?

[Guerrilla] A man who brought in a large quantity of weapons for the FARC before the fighting broke out was Rodriguez Gacha.

I met him in 1982 and 1983. Gacha was trusted by the guerrilla organization because they assigned to him the laboratories which it had in Vistahermosa and San Jose del Guaviare.

Commanders "Hernan Benitez," of Front VII; "Oscar," of Front I; and "Alfredo," another commander, handled financial matters for those areas at that time. However, they began to cause problems. A man would bring them their weapons, and they paid him with cocaine. The guerrilla organization made big profits. They collected a percentage from the growers of coca leaves: they took 100 grams from every kilogram produced.

Finally, the guerrilla organization began to set traps for the man bringing the weapons. They killed people and never paid them what the weapons were worth. About 50 G-3 and AR-15 rifles came through Concordia in 1983. This shipment was handled by a buyer who worked for Gacha, and they killed him. That was how the war started.

[Rubio] What has been the greatest source of income for the guerrillas?

[Guerrilla] Essentially, it was kidnapping.

[Rubio] What orders did you receive in that connection?

[Guerrilla] Each front appointed a financial committee, made up of a squad of eight men. Three of them collected intelligence about the objective—what were his movements and what resources he had. The job was handled in accordance with that.

[Rubio] Did they receive training in handling kidnappings?

[Guerrilla] Certainly. They appointed a special unit for that. They receive training from instructors who come directly from the secretariat. There is a man they call "Jaime Trujillo," who was always involved in that. He is the commander of all of the companies providing security for the secretariat.

[Rubio] How many men does the FARC have under arms?

[Guerrilla] More or less 8,000 men under arms. However, none of them is paid.

[Rubio] What foreign influence has there been in guerrilla training in Colombia?

[Guerrilla] I know that when consideration was given to setting up international blocs, they talked with the "Shining Path" movement [in Peru] and the Alfaro Vive Carajo movement in Ecuador. From that point on study courses began.

That happened in 1987. There was training for company and column commanders. Alfonso Cano gave the courses. "Mono Jojoy," who was really Jorge Briceno, gave the military courses. He is one of the best trained guerrillas in military matters.

[Rubio] Were foreigners involved?

[Guerrilla] In 1989 what they called a solidarity brigade arrived from Nicaragua and Cuba. There were five instructors. The commander was called "Fernando."

There are about 180 guerrillas on the general staff of all FARC fronts. About 20 ELN [Army of National Liberation] commanders participated in this course, and 104 persons graduated from it. This was a very tough course, carried out in the open, involving strategy, offensive and defensive attacks, assaults on bases, and tactical operations.

Plans for the tactical defense of the secretariat of the FARC came out of that course. Tunnels were dug which crossed the mountains from one side to the other, and special, very secure trenches were dug. That was a subject which came up during the course.

At the time of the attack on and capture of Casaverde about 600 to 800 men were there. When the order to attack the secretariat was given, they had already known about the projected assault for four days and were ready for it.

Then (the secretariat) was deployed to a secure place. At the time of the attack the security people of the secretariat did the fighting. Therefore, it was not a disaster. People were lost, but no member of the secretariat was killed, nor was any member of the central, general staff. They already knew about the attack.

As far as I knew at the time the guerrilla organization handled the communications of the ELN and also kept track of the ELN through political personnel.

[Rubio] Does the guerrilla organization have drug processing laboratories?

[Guerrilla] They have cocaine laboratories near Ariari. There were big fields planted to coca and three laboratories there.

[Rubio] How much money does the FARC make in a year?

[Guerrilla] It amounts to 60 times 300 to 350 million pesos [18 to 21 billion pesos]. Furthermore, each front handles its money and has its budget. So there are about 1.6 million pesos monthly at that level. Multiply that by 12 [19.2 million pesos per year].

[Rubio] When the foreigners arrived, how did FARC strategy change?

[Guerrilla] They brought in ideas of modern warfare. They began to analyze the enemy forces from an internal point of view. This was done regarding Girasol military base, in the plains area. The operation to attack that base was led by "Ricardo," a Cuban instructor, a few days before the assault on the secretariat.

[Rubio] And they never talked about demobilizing the guerrillas?

[Guerrilla] The FARC never talked about that.

[Rubio] What is the structure of the FARC? How has it been able to avoid pursuit by the Colombian Army?

[Guerrilla] Every "bloc" handles several fronts. There are "blocs" in the Departments of Santander, Tolima, Uraba, Meta, and Caqueta. They have a central rendezvous where they have various installations. They deploy from these places for attacks.

The combat finance company is always led by a member of the general staff of the front. That is the way the FARC operates.

Each company has its own commander. The "Ciro Trujillo" and "Juan de la Cruz Varela" companies operate in the Usme and San Juan areas; there are also the "Jacobo Arenas" and the "Especial de Marulanda" companies. The latter is a special force made up of

people who have been in the guerrilla organization for a long time. It consists of about 300 well-trained men.

Army Brigade To Protect Cusiana Oil Fields

PA1407133393 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Jul 93 p 7A

[Text] The 16th Army Brigade, placed on 8 July under the command of the 4th Division, headquartered in Villavicencio, will take charge of controlling, protecting, and maintaining public order in the Cusiana oil field region, Casanare Department.

Major General Eduardo Niebles Uscategui, 4th Division commander, on 8 July assumed tactical, operational, and administrative command of the 16th Brigade, located in Yopal.

The 4th Division now controls four brigades: the 7th Brigade, headquartered in Villavicencio; the 9th Brigade, headquartered in Neiva; the 12th Brigade, headquartered in Florencia; and, effective 9 July, the 16th Brigade, headquartered in Yopal.

The 2d Army Division commands the 1st Brigade, headquartered in Tunja; the 5th Brigade, headquartered in Bucaramanga; and the 14th Brigade, headquartered in Puerto Berrio (Antioquia Department).

Maj. Gen. Niebles said the addition of the new brigade represents a noticeable increase in combat power for the division, which will now be able to provide more safety in the region and protect the nation's historical heritage, represented by Cusiana's riches.

The 16th Brigade has an Operation Unit comprised of the Guias del Casanare Cavalry Group; the Reveiz Pizarro Cavalry group; Service Battalion No. 16; Counterguerrilla Battalions 23, 24, 25, 29, and 30; and Operation Commandos No. 2 and No. 8.

An Army source said three counterguerrilla battalions will be posted to the Cusiana area.

Maj. Gen. Niebles said the 10th, 28th, 38th, and 45th Fronts of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia; and the Domingo Lain Sanchez and Jose David Suarez Columns of the Army of National Liberation operate in the Cusiana area.

The 16th Brigade, formerly under the command of the 2d Division, will be led by Brigadier General Alvaro Velandia Hurtado.

Niebles said at least 2,000 men will be posted to the Cusiana area effective 9 July.

Ecuador

Foreign Minister Comments on Ibero-American Summit

PA1507035193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1835 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Quito, 14 Jul (NOTIMEX)—Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes said the Ibero-American summits have "institutionalized" dialogue, permitting the government leaders to adopt political positions that favor the people.

In an interview with NOTIMEX at his office in the Foreign Ministry in Quito, Paredes said the two previous meetings of heads of state and government of Latin America, Spain, and Portugal have encouraged international cooperation.

Paredes said that the new summit, which will be held in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, will be a new occasion to renew the dialogue "at the highest level," exchange experiences, and resolve the most urgent issues.

The Ecuadoran foreign minister believes that the meetings of Ibero-American heads of state have been productive and that their "most noticeable" political achievement has been the "institutionalization" of that dialogue. "Periodic meetings among the heads of state and government are very important as such meetings facilitate contacts, shortens distances, and make the adoption of political decisions much faster," he added.

Paredes said that at the organizers' request the agenda will include development, but such issues as democracy, cooperation, and human rights will not be ignored.

The foreign minister indicated that respect for human rights is a "permanent concern" of the region's governments, and even though some violations occur, "respect for them is increasing." Paredes added that with the exception of some isolated cases, democracy in the region has advanced "greatly" and is constantly being strengthened. As examples he cited Guatemala, where democratic institutions were restored, and Haiti, where the return of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is being negotiated.

In addition to the main topics, the summit participants will undertake an "open and in-depth" dialogue on cooperation in the international struggle against drug trafficking and on free trade and integration agreements, he added.

The foreign minister indicated that the meeting will analyze development and how it is "linked to the social and economic problems" that affect "the poorest people who are least able to defend themselves." He explained that the increase in extreme poverty in many Ibero-American countries is a "great concern" of the government leaders, who are responsible for meeting the challenge.

He did not rule out the possibility that Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari would meet to discuss topics of common interest within the context of bilateral meetings at the Salvador summit. The minister gave great importance to such a meeting in view of the fact that the Mexican president "has become a great Latin American leader" and there is a close political relationship between the two countries.

Regarding the proposal that Ecuador will present, he said it deals with Duran-Ballen's "deep concern" for social problems. He said efforts to solve such problems would help the regional integration process, so the Ibero-American nations are being "sounded out" about the possibility of implementing a joint project for social and economic development. The project was a proposal that former Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja submitted to the second summit in Madrid in July 1992.

The foreign minister said the Brazil summit will also be used to promote former President Borja's candidacy to the post of OAS secretary general.

He said that during the summit, President Duran-Ballen and Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori will set the date for Duran-Ballen's official visit to Lima, during which they will address the border problem between the two nations.

In the interview with NOTIMEX, which was held during a recess in the preparations for Ecuador's participation in the summit, Paredes stressed the role that Ibero-America plays in the new international order.

Duran-Ballen, who is 72 and took office on 10 August 1992, traveled to Brazil on 13 July to participate for the first time in an Ibero-American summit of heads of state. His delegation includes the foreign, defense, and public works ministers, a group of legislators, and the government palace press chief.

Paraguay

Presence of U.S. Military Forces Conditioned

PY1407192893 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 13 Jul 93 p 21

[Excerpt] The Foreign Relations Commission and the Petitions, Powers, and Regulations Commission yesterday jointly approved the request submitted by the Executive Branch for the entry of an E-3 AWACS plane, a KC-135 support tanker plane, and about 50 members of the U.S. Armed Forces. The U.S. military contingent will carry out lightning antidrug operations for three days toward the end of the month.

Senator Victor Sanchez Villagra said at the end of the meeting, however, that congressmen want the results of the studies to be made on Paraguayan territory by the foreign forces to remain in Paraguay, so that national organizations in charge of the matter may take the necessary steps to fight the trafficking scourge.

It is the first time that the Paraguayan Congress has imposed conditions on the U.S. Government concerning the arrival of U.S. Marines, although this subject must be analyzed and approved by the plenary session. [passage omitted]

Peru

Fujimori Leaves for Brazil; Yoshiyama Acting President

PA1507042593 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori left at 0800 on 14 July for Brazil to attend the Third Ibero-American Summit of heads of state and government. Jaime Yoshiyama, president of the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD], is now in charge of the presidency during Fujimori's absence. [passage omitted]

Once the presidential plane departed, Jaime Yoshiyama took over as temporary president of the Republic, as provided for by constitutional laws to this effect.

The official gazette on 14 July published a resolution issued by the CCD that authorizes Fujimori to be out of the country from 14 to 17 July, as well as another resolution issued by the Council of Ministers that entrusts Yoshiyama with the Presidency of the Republic during this time period. [passage omitted)

President Fujimori Interviewed on Economy

PY1407192593 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 11 Jul 93 p 36

[Interview with Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori by O GLOBO special correspondent to Lima George Vidor at Government Palace in Lima on 7 July]

[Text] [Vidor] The economic recovery of Peru, enduring the longest and most profound economic recession in the country's history, has been undeniably recognized over the past few months by the international community. But your political action is still the cause of a conflict, especially abroad. Yet, was it not through that formal democracy which you criticize so much, that a Fujimori, a candidate independent of traditional political schemes and who was elected on the promise of change, reached the presidency of Peru?

[Fujimori] The economic results, stressing a considerable reduction of the inflation rate, stem from the seriousness with which we administrate public assets. In addition to the economic crisis we have had other collateral economic problems so great that, had we not attacked them in the same manner, they would have prevented a solution to the economic problems. The

facts are there to prove that a Fujimori-style government—somewhat different from the traditional Latin American democratic styles—works. The 1979 Constitution was written to benefit the two biggest parties in Peru (APRA and PCP) [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance and Peruvian Communist Party]. It did not establish mechanisms or institutions to overcome the serious crisis we are still experiencing. The political system has become a vicious circle that allows the two parties to alternate in power. Meanwhile, misery was increasing. The Executive Branch was tied to the dictatorships of the two party boards. Congress and public assets were manipulated. The government was unable to act against trafficking or terrorism.

[Vidor] But that system did not prevent you from reaching the presidency....

[Fujimori] The Peruvian people reacted against that system, like other nations reacted to overthrow corrupt and ineffective systems, presidents, and governments; for instance, the fall of the Berlin Wall.

[Vidor] The new Peruvian Constitution, which is about to be approved by Congress, includes controversial points, like the possibility of reelecting the president for another period. Would alternation in power not be better for democracy?

[Fujimori] The reelection possibility is necessary because it is the only way for the people to approve or reject the government course. That opinion has nothing to do with whether I stand for reelection in 1995. The opposition says that reelection is not right for Latin America because it is not in line with the traditions of the continent. But to what traditions do they refer? To the chronic poverty? To the crisis to which we have become doomed? Why not resort to the traditions of countries which have prospered and where reelection is included? Why do we have to resort only to Latin American traditions? This is a fallacy.

[Vidor] What we have, perhaps, is a tradition of authoritarian, autocratic, and centralized governments and states. Alternation of power would smooth over that tendency....

[Fujimori] Alternation of power, according to the 1979 Constitution, was a total disaster in Peru. It provoked the worst crisis, not just in the history of Peru, but the worst ever recorded in the history of the continent because groups of politicians—apparently so much in favor of an electoral dispute—designed a Constitution to meet their own interests and not those of the country. This is what we tried to sever, but the resistance has been tremendous as you can verify by reading the Peruvian press.

[Vidor] Could it be that those problems stem from the long period of military dictatorships in Peru and in Brazil? Are the people perhaps still being reeducated in politics, from which they were isolated?

[Fujimori] Based on the teachings of practical political pedagogy, I can say that people cannot be deceived. During my short term, in office I have seen how much can be done by honestly managing public affairs and how little other presidents did because of the inefficiency or corruption of their respective governments.

[Vidor] Even so, it is worth recalling what President Kennedy said near the Berlin Wall in 1961, that democracy has many defects, but is still the best possible political system (at least it did not need a wall to keep the people in)....

[Fujimori] If what Peru had was a democratic system, I don't want it. I would like to have seen the 147 million Brazilians accept the Constitution that we had! Under that system there were 25,000 deaths during a 12-year period—victims of terrorism—among a population of just 22 million. In Brazil, this would be equivalent to 150,000 deaths. I wonder—although but I cannot even conceive an answer—how previous presidents could coexist with such a situation. I am sure Brazilians would not agree to it either. Since 5 April 1992 (when Fujimori dissolved Congress and dismissed the Supreme Court, calling for the election of those who would draft a new Constitution), we have put 1,100 terrorists in jail. I told the intelligence service chiefs that this year we would dismantle the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) and that we would dismantle the Shining Path in 1995. They were surprised. Now they do not say anything because they know the strategy is working. We enforced an 80 percent replacement in the police leadership and restructured the judicial branch. During my term in office, prior to 5 April, the courts released 220 terrorists for "lack of evidence." Since then, no terrorists have been released, the number of attacks has decreased, and people can now walk the streets without fear.

[Vidor] Was it a matter of corruption?

[Fujimori] Corruption, inefficiency, and vested interest. Could we wish for better evidence than the fact that the system is now working? I am not talking about the economic side alone, because it is always possible to exercise some control on the economic policy. But how could we have a reliable, impartial economic program in an atmosphere of total insecurity?

[Vidor] It has been said that the national census to be held on 18 July will reveal a considerable migration from rural areas to the cities because of terrorism. What are the government's estimates?

[Fujimori] The Peruvian population totals about 22 million people, of which 7 or 8 million live in Lima. Driven by terrorism, 600,000 to 1,000,000 people fled from rural areas to the capital, where they are living in precarious conditions. It has been internationally recognized that we are undergoing a pacification process. It is time to once again promote treaties and investments.

[Vidor] Can tourism be revived in Peru to the level of the 1970's?

[Fujimori] During the most recent Easter celebration (when traditionally large celebrations are held in some Andean cities) hotels in Ayacucho, the center of terrorist operations, were full. One famous resort area just a few hours from Lima a year ago did not get one single visitor from Lima. That resort was full this year.

[Vidor] Regarding your economic program, what made you change your mind and speed up privatization?

[Fujimori] Had I carried out the privatization plan during the first year I would have not collected one penny. Investors now realize that the program is working and there is interest, not just from Peruvian investors, but from investors from all over the world. The companies are no longer worth nothing. A year and a half year ago Peruvian state companies were worth almost nothing.

[Vidor] Selling Pescaperu [State Fish Meal and Fish Oil Production Agency] and Centrominperu [Central Peru Mining Enterprise] (former Cerro de Pasco) seemed a taboo subject in the past. Is their privatization now proceeding?

[Fujimori] We will start the privatization of Pescaperu and Centrominperu this year. The sale of Centrominperu was in the past unthinkable due to terrorist activities in the mining areas and the apathy of the miners.

[Vidor] How did military men react to the idea of privatizing Centrominperu (the legendary Cerro de Pasco company whose nationalization was the pretext used by General Velasco Alvarado to carry out a coup in 1968)?

[Fujimori] I would like to emphasize this issue: In Peru the military power is subordinated to the civilian power. I command the Armed Forces, which are part of the state and have a strategic function. We will not have the type of democracy of some countries where military men hold a veiled and mysterious power.

[Vidor] From the distance one gets the impression that there are no great differences between your economic program and the one presented by Mario Vargas Llosa, your opponent in the presidential elections. What are the differences now?

[Fujimori] I do not know about Vargas Llosa's program. During the campaign I always said we would go for a market economy. Some of Vargas Llosa's supporters now say we copied his program. They say that now because it is working. At the beginning when there was not that certainty they said there was no similarity.

[Vidor] Why did Vargas Llosa say, when he recently adopted Spanish citizenship, that Peru is in a difficult situation?

[Fujimori] Sincerely, I do not know.

[Vidor] Does the press make you feel uncomfortable?

[Fujimori] Freedom of the press is essential. But I believe the press should not become a parallel power. Freedom of expression should be guaranteed to everybody.

[Vidor] Institutions, like traditionally programed political parties, are necessary if the changes you uphold are to be stable. There is a lot of talk in Peru that movements have surfaced but have not really become political parties yet.

[Fujimori] I do not believe I am irreplaceable, that I am above the institutions, but I do believe that capable people can get the job done. Had capable people existed before, maybe we could have succeeded with the old system that prevailed in our country. What I criticize are the political parties that are manipulated by their leaderships. Political parties must surface from their grassroots; the traditional Peruvian parties are learning this. This is what I sensed during meetings with militants of the APRA (the party created by Haya de la Torre and that elected Alan Garcia, currently one of Fujimori's greatest rivals, who currently lives in Colombia in self-exile), for example, in the interior. Even in areas where it was always very strong, the APRA has suffered serious defeats in the latest municipal elections. I constantly visit the shantytowns to supervise the small projects (because the government has no money to spend) we are carrying out and I am able to see for myself the great improvements they represent. Sometimes the mere paving of a road significantly reduces the cost of construction materials because it allows its transportation by trucks. How come previous authorities did not realize this? They say I am campaigning for myself. All I am doing is working.

[Vidor] How about Peru's relations with neighboring countries?

[Fujimori] We are getting rid of several taboos. We gave Bolivia 5 km of beach and assess to Ilo Port. I forced Ecuador to invite me to visit and thus to settle the old border conflicts. After 78 years of difficult relations with Chile we have now signed mutually beneficial agreements. For the first time in history a Peruvian president had the nerve to remove battalions from the border areas. They are now being used to fight drug trafficking. After a year of work without the old formalities we have attained significant results. I think there is an image problem. I do not have the power of the media nor of the great intellectuals but I do have the support of the man on the street. I have even received support from other Latin American countries.

[Vidor] How about Brazil, you haven't said anything about it....

[Fujimori] We do not have any prickly issues with Brazil. I have worked quietly. We have completed, for example, the highway that allows Brazil an outlet to the Pacific. Since the times of [former Peruvian President] Belaunde Terry there was a project to build a bridge in Maldonado

Port. Even the material to build the bridge was ready. Well, the bridge is almost ready to use.

* Fujimori's Reelection Prospects Analyzed

93SM0319 Lima DEBATE in Spanish Mar-May 93 pp 14-15

[Editor's introduction]

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has decided that the people should have the final word by means of a referendum on his reelection. An astute strategy for a man who is guided by intuition and common sense, and who says he has no personal ambitions. Several factors will affect Fujimori's achievement of this objective. Consolidation of his popularity is one of them; the defeat of subversion is another; creation of a consensus on the basis of a pluralistic and effective democracy is perhaps the most difficult; keeping the loyalty of the Armed Forces is another of his principal challenges; and having a good image overseas is crucial so that the international organizations know their interlocutor. In the following articles, authoritative analysts provide some answers for the coming months.

* Political Strengths, Weaknesses

93SM0319A Lima DEBATE in Spanish Mar-May 93 pp 14-15

[Alberto Bustamente Belaunde commentary]

[Text] A few days ago a a friend of mine and of metaphors said that Engineer Fujimori, on becoming president, began to act like a typical demolition foreman. "The house was falling down," my friend said, "and Fujimori is demolishing it efficiently. He has almost torn it down and only the debris remains to be removed. He can probably remove it with some 'bulldozers' that should already be standing by on the corner."

To begin, it is important to discard some reductionist theories that explain Fujimori's animosity as a function of his personality or his ethnic origin. Before he became president, Engineer Fujimori directed a television program called "Concertando" [Cooperating]. Some analysts say that he took note of what his guests said, making a kind of synthesis at the end that attempted to reconcile the different points of view. It does not seem, therefore, that Engineer Fujimori is ontologically contentious.

To be a demolition foreman at the political level implies a personal disposition to fight with whomever is necessary as long as the house is torn down and the salvaged materials placed on the market. In a country of compromises, arrangements, conversations, despicable agreements, and shameful transactions, it has been several decades since a president has appeared who, from the start, has been prepared to liquidate the political and institutional system that had us (this is a witticism, because in reality it still has us) sunken in backwardness and poverty. Fujimori is a president who is an iconoclast, unruly and a troublemaker. He is battling the traditional parties, the Church, the Congress, the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance], the diplomats, the Judiciary, the regions, the mayors, the Armed Forces and the National Police, the ONG [nongovernmental organizations] involved in human rights, the Dincote [Counterterrorism Directorate], and more than one journalist, to mention just a few examples.

Nevertheless, once the house is demolished and the debris virtually cleared away, the problem is that not even Fujimori himself knows exactly what should be built in the broad, empty space that remains. Will it be a small dwelling or an enormous mansion? Will it be a residential building or a commercial center? Who will occupy the various parts of the building? Engineer Fujimori's hoped for transition from demolition foreman to statesman-builder will depend on (1) how well he organizes the future of a different kind of democracy, installed within a true market economy and (2) how much consensus, and not controversary, he is able to muster.

* Popularity Quotient

93SM0319B Lima DEBATE in Spanish Mar-May 93 pp 15-17

[Alfredo Torres commentary]

[Text]There are in Peru two markedly different perceptions of the president's popularity. On the one hand, those who anticipate a swift and dramatic collapse. On the other, those who maintain that his popularity will be long-lasting. The greater part of the traditional political class and many analysts connected to it are in the first group. In the second is the majority of the new politicians who have sprouted up around the president.

The truth is less clear-cut. On one side, it is doubtless that, as all the polls have found repeatedly, almost three years after his election and one year since the self-coup, the majority continues to approve of Alberto Fujimori's administration, a privilege enjoyed by very few Latin American presidents. On the other hand, this approval is neither unconditional nor absolute. It is subject to at least two conditions. An analysis of these two conditions permits the conclusion that his majority support will continue over the short term, but not necessarily over the medium term.

The first condition is his performance in resolving the problems that concern the public: the economic situation, terrorism, and corruption. In this sense, 1992 was a good year for Fujimori: he reduced inflation from 140 percent in 1991 to 57 percent on 1992; he captured Abimael Guzman and a number of important leaders of Shining Path and the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement], and he intervened in the Judiciary, an institution perceived until then by the public as among the most corrupt.

It is true that this intervention, like the closing of Congress, was done in open violation of the constitution. But anyone who is aware of Peruvian social reality knows that Peru is a country where the formalities are not important and where the law is perceived as an obstacle rather than as a legitimate standard. Therefore, it is natural that the public fixes its attention more on the results of an action than on its form, in the same way that a settler in a new community constructs his dwelling before thinking of obtaining a municipal license to do it.

As a result, the first condition that Fujimori faces is to continue showing results in these three fields. This explains his attention to achieving financial reinsertion and attracting foreign investment; to continue to capture terrorists and to introduce the death penalty for their leaders; and in continuing to uncover corruption in all of the centers of power, including the once untouchable Armed Forces.

Public opinion will continue to support him, as long as he continues on that path. The problem for Fujimori is that the public will become ever more demanding. It is no longer enough to diminish inflation. The creation of jobs has moved to first place on the public's agenda. Terrorist acts must be seen to decline. Otherwise, the public will begin to suspect that, in the continuing capture of terrorists, not all the terrorists have been captured and not all of those captured are terrorists. All of the big shots involved in corruption must go to jail, not just those who belong to the regime's political opposition.

The second condition for the president's popularity to continue is that there be no alternative to this government. Whether he likes it or not, Fujimori owes much of his support to Alan Garcia. In terms of historical dialectic, as the ex-president was fond of saying, Fujimori's administration seems noteworthy thanks, in part, to the disaster that was the preceding government.

But not only that. Alan Garcia was recognized by the opposing factions as an extraordinary politician. To that extent, his unfortunate performance hurt all those of his species. In the same way that confidence in the medical profession would be affected if a famous surgeon were to leave a scalpel in a patient's stomach, Garcia's performance had an enormous cost in the credibility of all the politicians who served with him.

As a consequence, the major politicians have been rejected by the public. There remains the new generation: Lourdes Flores, Rafael Rey, Fernando Olivera, Raul Diez Canseco. So far, however, public opinion either does not believe them to be of presidential stature, or does not believe that they have clearly broken with the past. The other source of options is municipal administration. Luis Caceres has already launched his candidacy and Daniel Estrada has insinuated his, but the one with the most potential is surely Ricardo Belmont. The advantage that mayors enjoy over members of Congress is that the mayors can demonstrate projects. Until and unless, of course, the government cuts off their funding.

In conclusion, while the government continues to show progress in the areas that concern the public—economy, terrorism, and corruption—and until an attractive alternative emerges at the popular level, the public will continue to support Fujimori with the fervor of a survivor who clings to a buoy after a ship wreck.

* Civil-Military Balance

93SM0319C Lima DEBATE in Spanish Mar-May 93 pp 17-18

[Enrique Obando commentary]

[Text] The Armed Forces have been particularly active in the country's political life during 1992. In April, they supported the closing of Congress by President Alberto Fujimori, in what constituted a presidential coup, and in November, discontented officers planned a counter coup, which was aborted however by forces loyal to Fujimori. What can we expect in 1993?

What happened in November is a clear indication that there is discontent in the Armed Forces. The communiques from the former commanding generals, what occurred with Generals Cisneros and Arciniega, Admiral Jimenez' letter, the invitations to retire, etc., have created the feeling that a polarization exists inside the military institutions that is not at all positive for their efficiency in the middle of a countersubversive war. Until last year, the existence of three sectors within the Armed Forces could be inferred: a sector coopted by the president, largely among the higher ranks, an institutionalist sector opposed to that cooptation and with the idea that the Armed Forces should be semi-autonomous from the political power, and a third group that is also institutionalist but that supports Fujimori because his is the first government to adopt and implement an antisubversive strategy. General Jose Valdivia was the most visible representative of this group. Following the events of 13 November, however, Fujimori became more distrustful and he requested the retirement, or removed from key positions, members of this latter group, which could have served as a buffer between the antagonistic coopted and institutionalist groups. Today, this buffer does not exist and therefore polarization must be greater. Could this lead to a repetition of the events of November: a plot to depose Fujimori? Not likely.

The controls that now exist inside the Armed Forces, but especially in the Army, are very strict. In the Army, for example, officers are forbidden to hold meetings among themselves outside of military installations, according to some military sources. Officers distrust one another and do not dare to criticize openly, as they do not know which of their comrades might be coopted by the government and inform on them (it was due to an informer that Salinas' plot was uncovered). The intelligence organizations pay well for information about officers who are

disaffected with the government and this, in a system of low salaries, has tended to create more than one informer.

On the other hand, a curious situation arises. Officers in general have no objections to Fujimori on policy grounds. They agree with his antisubversive policy and with his economic policy. What they disagree with is cooptation of the Armed Forces and their low salaries. What they would seek in any case is not to oust the government, for which they have no viable alternative, but rather to put pressure on it to regain their autonomy and improve their income. What might very well happen, then, is an eventual uprising by a small group of officers with limited objectives, such as the retirement of the present commanding general of the Army, similar to the "painted faces" uprising in Argentina. An uprising of this type would not be very easy to carry out, but if it were to happen it would create a serious problem for the government because it would have to be put down with force, which would create even more polarization in the the Armed Forces. An eventual pardon by the government for the officers implicated in the events of 13 November, however, would help to lower the tension and could make less likely this last possibility.

* Shining Path's Role

93SM0319D Lima DEBATE in Spanish Mar-May 93 p 18

[Luis F. Cisneros Vizquerra commentary]

[Text] If we let ourselves be guided by the information supplied by the news media that, day after day, tell us of the capture of new subversive cells, of the arrest of alleged subversives or of deaths caused by armed clashes between subversive guerrillas and military patrols, in addition to the logical optimism that this information produces, it would be easy to create a sanguine outlook for 1993. But a cool-headed analysis of the antecedents of the subversive movement, as well as its different manners of fighting, make the answer to the question much more complex.

If we look backward to the beginning of 1992, we will remember a Shining Path making a qualitative leap transferring its center of gravity from the mountains to the coast, trying to close the ring around Lima, and beginning the second phase of its long war called "The Strategic Balance: "during the course of its actions in the cordon of settlements around the capital, Shining Path developed a tactic in which it gave priority to the political struggle inside the settlements, closely supported by terrorist acts that would have an impact on Lima's society, and that would demonstrate in Peru and abroad the correctness and forcefulness of its "strategic balance."

The capture of Abimael Guzman and of a large part of his top political leadership, as well as the imprisonment of some of the most important leaders of his support organizations and of the main assassination cells that operated in Lima, have undoubtedly shaken the organization's foundations but "have not destroyed the building." The immediate reaction to the capture of "President Gonzalo" was within the purest revolutionary logic; to demonstrate that the organization was prepared to survive the capture of its supreme leader, through an increase in its terrorist actions, particularly in Lima, because of their immediate effect on the national and international scenes.

The subsequent performance of Shining Path at the end of 1992 and during early 1993 show us an organization that is seriously wounded and that is trying to recondition its badly damaged political cadres as well as its economic support cadres. While not abandoning urban areas, Shining Path has been giving priority in its actions to rural areas. But let us not fool ourselves. Shining Path is carrying out a strategic retreat to an area in which it still maintains good operational capability.

Within this situational framework, Shining Path probably sees its prospects for this year in its ability to achieve the following goals:

1) Select or confirm its new leadership that must take command of the armed struggle and be able to alter its strategy.

2) Rebuild its political leadership to permit Shining Path to resume its activities in Lima's settlements.

3) Regain its economic strength, either through increased contact with the narcotics traffic, or through robberies of banks and similar entities, or both activities at once.

4) Reinforce its guerrilla activities in its areas of influence in the mountains.

5) Continue to carry out terrorist acts, especially in Lima.

The achievement of these goals does not depend only on the aggressiveness and persistence with which the new leadership conducts its actions, but basically on the countersubversive strategy and actions that are implemented by the Peruvian state.

In sum, the activities of Shining Path during 1993 will be determined not only by what it is still capable of doing, but by what we can do to stop it.

Uruguay

Negotiations Planned With Argentina After Summit

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[Text] Salvador, Brazil, 14 Jul (EFE)—The Argentine and Uruguayan Foreign Ministries agreed to study a series of pending issues of common interest after the Third Ibero-American Summit, which will begin in Salvador, Bahia State, on 15 July.

According to what Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu told EFE today, the two countries will discuss a series of issues linked to fishing, navigation channels, the Salto Grande dam, and passenger transportation along the River Plate.

Abreu said his country is concerned about the fishing agreement recently signed between Argentina and the EC because it affects the hake and squid banks, which have their hatcheries in Uruguayan territorial waters. The Uruguayan minister believes that his country must be included in this agreement in order to defend its own fishing resources.

Abreu said he will meet his Argentine counterpart, Guido Di Tella, in Buenos Aires or Montevideo after the summit ends to speed up the round of bilateral negotiations.

The Uruguayan Government also is interested in dredging the River Plate navigation channels, within the framework of the waterway project for the Parana and Paraguay Rivers. This project will create a sea outlet for Paraguayan, Bolivian, and western Brazil products.

Uruguay wants the deepest channel to pass by Martin Garcia Island, near its coast, while Buenos Aires wants the navigation channel to be in Argentine jurisdictional waters. If this solution is chosen, the Nueva Palmira free port on the Uruguay River's eastern bank will not be used as the "waterway" terminal.

Abreu said that in the framework of bilateral relations with Argentina, negotiations on the channels' issue "are well advanced."

Also in the agenda of the next talks is the issue referring to the transportation of passengers along the River Plate between the port of Buenos Aires and the Uruguayan ports of Colonia and Montevideo. The two governments are planning to make this transportation more dynamic.